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Ukraine signs historic EU pact, snubbing Russia

**JOHN DAHLBURG
V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — Over Russia's objections, Ukraine's new president on Friday signed a free-trade deal binding his country more closely to Western Europe, sealing the very agreement that triggered the bloodshed and political convulsions of the past seven months. Russia, meanwhile, fended off for the time being a new, more crippling round of Western sanctions over

ancing act between Russia and the West. The Kremlin wants to keep Ukraine, the birthplace of Russian statehood and Russian Orthodox Christianity, in its orbit. In November, under pressure from Moscow, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich spiked the EU pact, triggering huge protests that drove him from power. Moscow responded by annexing the mainly Russian-speaking Crimean Peninsula in March, and pro-Russian separatists soon rose up in

Meanwhile, EU leaders decided not to immediately impose new sanctions on Russia for the uprising. But they warned that punitive measures have been drawn up and could be levied immediately. And they gave Russia and the rebels until Monday to take steps to ease the violence, including releasing all captives, retreating from border checkpoints, agreeing on a way to verify the cease-fire and launching "substantial negotiations" on Poroshenko's peace

fire in areas where it has been violated by the rebels. At the signing ceremony, Poroshenko reminded EU leaders of the bloodshed in his country. Ukraine "paid the highest possible price to make her European dreams come true," he said, asking the EU to pledge that one day Ukraine can join the 28-nation bloc. Membership "would cost the European Union nothing," he said, "but would mean the world to my country."

Juncker is new EU head despite British wishes

**JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders on Friday picked former Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker to become the bloc's new chief executive despite Britain's outspoken opposition, further alienating the U.K. from its continental partners. With the move, the EU leaders broke a decades-old tradition of choosing the president of the European Commission by consensus. Summit chairman Herman Van Rompuy said 26 of the bloc's 28 countries voted for Juncker, with only Britain and Hungary opposing him. "Sometimes you have to lose a battle to win the war," British Prime Minister David Cameron declared after the vote, calling the long-time Brussels insider "the wrong person" for the high-profile job of leading the bloc of 500 million people. "This is a bad day for Europe," Cameron added. "This whole process has simply reinforced my conviction that Europe needs to change." The 59-year-old Juncker still needs to be confirmed by the European Parliament before replacing Jose Manuel Barroso on Nov. 1 as the head of the EU's powerful executive arm, which is in charge of drafting legislation, overseeing countries' budgets and policing the EU's single market.

"I really believe he is a committed European and a political leader with exceptional experience," Barroso said. But Cameron views Juncker as the embodiment of a pro-integration, consensus-favoring, empire-building Brussels clique who won't return powers to nations — something that voters appeared to want after eurosceptic parties made serious gains in May's European Parliament elections. "If you believe in a principle, you should stand up for it," Cameron said. "I'm deadly serious to fight for EU reforms." □



Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko, center, poses with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, left, and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, right, during an EU Summit in Brussels on Friday, June 27, 2014. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed up to a trade and economic pact with the European Union, saying it may be the "most important day" for his country since it became independent from the Soviet Union.

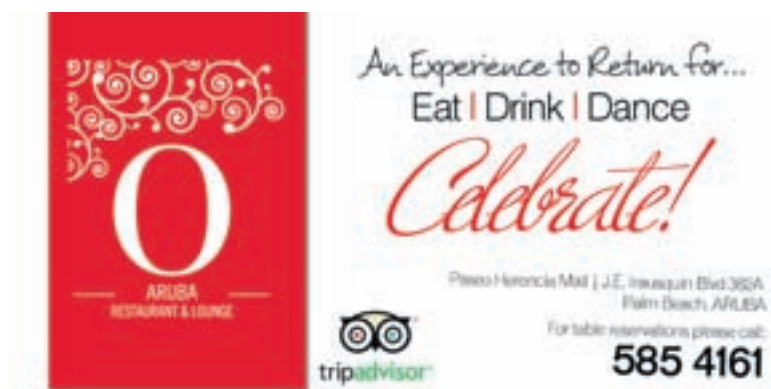
(AP Photo)

its intervention in Ukraine, where a fragile cease-fire between government forces and pro-Moscow separatists in the east expired Friday night but was extended by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko for three more days. "What a great day!" a beaming Poroshenko said in Brussels upon the signing of the economic agreement with the European Union. "Maybe the most important day for my country after independence." Since it became independent in the 1991 Soviet collapse, Ukraine has been involved in a delicate bal-

Ukraine's eastern provinces. While Friday's signing marked a defeat for Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has threatened to cancel trade preferences for Ukraine, the Kremlin made no immediate move to punish its neighbor or the two other former Soviet republics that joined the pact, Moldova and Georgia. Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia will take the necessary measures to protect its markets only when the agreement takes effect. That will take a few months.

plan. The weeklong cease-fire, which both sides have been accused of violating, expired at 10 p.m. local time (1900 GMT), but Poroshenko quickly declared its extension until 10 p.m. local time Monday. Insurgent leader Alexander Borodai said earlier in the day that the rebels were ready to extend the cease-fire if Poroshenko does so and would also soon release the European observers they have been holding for weeks. Poroshenko warned, however, that the government could terminate the cease-

In Kiev's Independence Square, the site of last winter's huge protests against Russian domination, balloons the color of the EU's blue flag were released over the crowd as a rock band pounded out the European Union's anthem, Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." The crowd of several hundred was far smaller than the hundreds of thousands who jammed the square at the height of the protests. Rain, people getting out of town ahead of a long holiday weekend, and the simmering conflict in the east worked to restrain the mood. □



Seeking Solution in Iraq, Kerry Turns to Saudis

MICHAEL R. GORDON

© 2014 New York Times

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia - U.S.

Secretary of State John Kerry arrived here Friday as part of a delicate attempt to enlist the support of the Saudi monarch for the formation of a multisect government in Iraq.

Kerry also met with Ahmad Assi al-Jarba, the head of the moderate Syrian opposition, at the start of his visit here.

That meeting came one day after the White House announced that it was seeking \$500 million from Congress so the Pentagon could train and arm "vetted elements" of the Syrian opposition.

Al-Jarba, a leader of the Shammar tribe, which has branches in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, has had strong backing from the Saudis. Kerry described him as a leader who could help the United States counter Sunni militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and who may also be able to play a role in influencing Sunni leaders to help form an inclusive Iraqi government. Iraq now has a Shiite-led government.

"President Jarba represents a tribe that reaches right into Iraq," Kerry said at their meeting at the airport here. "He knows people there."

"We are also in a moment of increased effort with the opposition," added Kerry, who said the coalition al-Jarba represents "has the ability to be a very important player in pushing back" against ISIL.

In an impolitic statement that is likely to fuel suspicions by the Iraqi prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, that the United States and the Saudis are conspiring against him, al-Jarba

lashed out at al-Maliki.

"The policies of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki after eight years in power have resulted in greater division," al-Jarba said. "Now the situation is very grave, and there are sectarian mi-

litias ruling the country."

"The borders between Iraq and Syria are practically open," added al-Jarba, who said ISIL had just seized Bukamal and was mounting a severe attack in Deir el-Zour, two cities in eastern

Syria.

Kerry's meeting with King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia presented a diplomatic challenge. The meeting was held at an ornate palace that featured a marble map of the world with

Islamic countries colored in green.

The Saudis' disdain for al-Maliki is longstanding.

"I don't trust this man," Abdullah told John O. Brennan, the CIA director, who was then President Barack Obama's counterterrorism director, in a March 2009 meeting, according to a classified cable that was made public by WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy organization. "He is an Iranian agent."

And while it has become clear that the Obama administration would also welcome a move by the Iraqis to pick another prime minister, the Saudi attitude poses a problem for U.S. diplomacy.

The Iraqi parliament is scheduled to begin forming a new government Monday.

To keep the political process on track, U.S. officials would like the Sunnis to settle on their choice for speaker of parliament by then. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, and King Abdullah wait for a meeting at the King's private residence on June 27, 2014 in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Friday, June 27, 2014.

(AP Photo/Brendan Smialowski, Pool)

US Mideast envoy quits after peace attempts

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. special Mideast envoy Martin Indyk resigned on Friday to return to a Washington think-tank in a move symbolizing the collapse of the latest American effort to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

Indyk's departure, while not unexpected due to the failure of the talks, comes amid turmoil in the region and as relations between Israel and the Palestinians are at a low point with little hope for a resumption in negotiations.

Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement that

Indyk, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel, would return to his position as vice president and director of foreign policy at The Brookings Institution think-tank in Washington but would continue to serve as special adviser on Mideast peace issues.

"Ambassador Indyk has invested decades of his extraordinary career to the mission of helping Israelis and Palestinians achieve a lasting peace. It's the cause of Martin's career, and I'm grateful for the wisdom and insight he's brought to our collective efforts," Kerry said.

"The United States remains committed not just to the

cause of peace, but to resuming the process when the parties find a path back to serious negotiations," Kerry said.

Kerry appointed Indyk to the envoy post last July while announcing a resumption in long-stalled peace talks with a nine-month deadline for a settlement. Negotiations broke down before the end-of-April target date with recriminations from both sides.

With the peace process on hiatus, it is unclear whether Indyk will be replaced. His deputy, Frank Lowenstein, will assume the envoy position on an interim basis.

Indyk's resignation marks the second time Obama has lost a Mideast peace envoy following a failed bid to bring the parties together. Former Sen. George Mitchell stepped down from the post in May 2011 after two years of frustrating efforts to get negotiations going during President Barack Obama's first term.

Mitchell's attempt was marked by severe turbulence in U.S.-Israel ties, mainly over Jewish settlements on disputed territory and tensions between Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. □

After buffer zone ruling,

US abortion rivals prepare to square off anew

JESS BIDGOOD

JOHN SCHWARTZ

© 2014 New York Times

BOSTON - On the morning the Supreme Court struck down restrictions that had created a no-protest buffer zone near abortion clinics, Ray Neary, the sole anti-abortion protester outside the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts health center here, stood on the other side of a yellow line drawn 35 feet from the building.

He said he did not want to act too hastily.

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a 7-year-old Massachusetts law that had created the buffer zone around entrances to abortion clinics. Abortion opponents had challenged the law on the grounds that the First Amendment gave them the right to have quiet conversations with women entering the clinics to tell them about alternatives to abortion.

Neary, who said he had been protesting at the Bos-

ton clinic for more than a decade, said he hoped the court decision would allow him to converse directly with potential patients and to share literature with them. The removal of the no-protest buffer, he said, will also help save his voice.

"Given the distance," he said, "I have to yell, 'Save a child today,' 'Give a child a chance.'"

The court's decision will probably lead to further litigation over restrictions on activism around such facilities. Eric Scheidler, the executive director of the Pro-Life Action League, which trains the people who refer to themselves as sidewalk counselors, said that buffer zones were only one kind of restriction on activities that state and local governments have tried to impose around clinics.

"It's time to revisit some of these additional restrictions as well," he said.

As Neary held a sign with frayed edges that depicted a fetus on the front with the phrase, "When they tell



Demonstrators hand out pamphlets in front of a Planned Parenthood office in Boston, June 27, 2014. The Supreme Court on Thursday struck down a seven-year-old Massachusetts law that created a no-protest buffer zone around abortion clinics; Boston officials plan to send police to provide additional security here in anticipation of renewed protests.

(Katherine Taylor/The New York Times)

you that abortion is a matter just between a woman and her doctor, they're forgetting someone," the military retiree from Medfield, Massachusetts, who usually comes once every two weeks, might have gone unnoticed by many passers-by. But on weekends, there are sometimes dozens of other protesters.

Before Thursday's ruling, many patients and staff members at the clinic had felt some measure of relief because of the no-protest buffer. But no more.

"I think patients and staff will feel a little more at risk, and less safe," said Sarah Cyr-Mutty, the community relations coordinator for the Boston Planned Parenthood health center and a member of the volunteer corps that helps escort patients past protesters to the building's entrance. "It's frustrating that it seems like their right to be able to stand up closer to somebody's face is more important than the rights of someone who is trying to access health care," she said.

Officials at the city of Boston said Friday that they would send police officers to provide added security at the clinic.

"The buffer zone was a measure to ensure public safety," said Kate Norton, a spokeswoman for Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "Now that it no longer exists, we intend to take necessary steps to ensure that individuals remain safe, which includes an increased police presence until further notice."

In the ruling, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. drew a distinction between intimidating protesters and

people like Eleanor McCullen, a plaintiff in the case, who he said engage in "personal, caring, consensual conversations with women about various alternatives."

Scheidler, of the Pro-Life Action League, said that distinction was vital.

"There are already remedies in place in the law if there's any kind of activity going on that isn't peaceful - but what this decision says is that peaceful activity cannot be restricted," he said. Nicole Clegg, vice president for public policy at Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, said, "I don't know if the patient is able to make a distinction between someone quietly offering counseling versus someone who has a camera in their face and someone who is calling them names and intimidating them."

In Portland, Maine, which has a local buffer zone ordinance, the decision was received as a call to action by Marie Coyle. Coyle has served for the last two years as a volunteer at Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, wearing a neon-pink vest and escorting people past protesters. She chose that role because she is a former patient at the center and had to make her way past protesters herself. □

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

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Border Patrol reschedules flights to California

JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Border Patrol announced Friday that it was going forward with its plans to fly Central American migrants from the Rio Grande Valley to Southern California and two Texas border cities to help relieve what President Barack Obama has called a humanitarian crisis. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement that the agency plans to transport adults and children from the Rio Grande Valley to Laredo and El Paso in Texas, and San Diego and El Centro in Southern California. Friday's announcement comes less than a week after the agency canceled the California flights. Of-

ficials released no further details. It is not known when the flights would begin nor how many migrants would be transported to the state. Paul Beeson, chief of the Border Patrol's San Diego sector, told The Associated Press a week ago that the plan at that time called for two flights with 140 passengers each. They were expected to continue every three days, carrying mostly families with children and some adults. Once the migrants are processed, Immigration and Customs Enforcement decides who can be released while awaiting deportation proceedings. Thousands of Central American families and unaccompanied children have been coming to the U.S. in



Detainees play as other sleep in a holding cell at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection processing facility in Brownsville, Texas. CPB provided media tours Wednesday of two locations in Brownsville and Nogales, Ariz. that have been central to processing the more than 47,000 unaccompanied children who have entered the country illegally since Oct. 1.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay, Pool)

in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. Because officials had run out of room at holding facilities there, they began releasing immigrant families and requiring them to report back within 15 days. Later, officials flew hundreds to Arizona for processing.

Several new detention centers are expected to open to deal with the influx of women and children fleeing gang violence and poverty in Central American. News of detention centers opening in communities has stirred up fear and anger among residents who worry the immigrants will bring in new illnesses, tax local resources, escape and spike crime rates. A senior U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official during a media tour Thursday of a new facility in New Mexico told The Associated Press that authorities there aim to deport the immigrants within 10 to 15 days to send a message back to their home countries that there are consequences for illegal immigration. □

Missing boy found in own basement back with mom

DETROIT (AP) — A 12-year-old boy who was missing for a dozen days before he was discovered in his father's basement was back with his mother Friday, and police barred his father from having any contact with him. Charlie Bothuell V was found Wednesday in the depths of the multiple-unit condo building where his father and stepmother live near downtown Detroit. He was evaluated at a hospital and returned to his mother on Thursday, police spokeswoman Sgt. Eren Stephens said. Investigators weren't allowing him to have contact with his father Charlie Bothuell IV and stepmother Monique Dillard-Bothuell as they focus on the circumstances of his disappearance and recovery. Sgt. Mike Woody, a po-

lice spokesman, said in an email Friday that he had no immediate updates on the case. The Associated Press has left messages seeking comment from the boy's mother, Africa Shippings. Dillard-Bothuell was arrested Thursday on a probation violation related to a misdemeanor gun charge. Her two children have been placed into Children's Protective Services custody. Dillard-Bothuell appeared in court on Friday when she was ordered to wear the tether and a judge set personal bond at \$5,000. She's due back in court July 11. Mark Magidson, a lawyer representing Dillard-Bothuell and her husband, said her arrest was "highly disingenuous" and he's advised her not to talk to investigators unless he's present. □

recent months as they flee violence, murders and extortion from criminal gangs in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Many of them are under the impression that they will receive

leniency from U.S. authorities once they get here. More than 52,000 children, mostly from Central America, have been detained since October. The vast majority have been caught

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Golden Gate Bridge funding OK'd

S. THANAWALA
TERRY COLLINS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco's iconic Golden Gate Bridge moved a big step closer to getting an oft-debated suicide barrier after bridge officials on Friday approved a \$76 million funding package for a net system that would prevent people from jumping to their deaths. The bridge district's board of directors voted unanimously in favor of the funding for a steel suicide net. The funding sources are \$20 million in bridge toll rev-

ever, has now taken its final step in adopting the net.

"The tragedy of today is that we can't go back in time, we can't save ... the people who jumped off the bridge. But the good thing, with this vote today, we can vote in their memory," board member Janet Reilly said.

"We will save many lives who have followed in their footsteps — and that's what so extraordinary about today."

The Golden Gate Bridge, with its sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay, has

officials say it will not mar the landmark bridge's appearance.

But funding for the project remained a major obstacle.

A significant hurdle was overcome two years ago when President Barack Obama signed into law a bill making safety barriers and nets eligible for federal funds.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California in a statement Friday praised the bridge's board and Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, who has been a staunch supporter of a barrier.



The Golden Gate Bridge is shown in San Francisco. On Friday, June 27, 2014, Golden Gate Bridge officials approved a funding package for a \$76 million suicide barrier.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

enue, \$49 million in federal money and \$7 million from the state.

A tearful Dan Barks, who lost his son, Donovan, to suicide on the bridge in 2008, said after the vote that he was almost speechless. "A lot of people have done so much incredible work to get this accomplished," he said.

He rose from his knees and shared a tearful embrace with Sue Story of Rocklin, whose son Jacob jumped off the bridge in 2010.

"We did it, Dan! We did it! It's no longer the Bridge of Death anymore," she said. At least some of the money still requires additional approval.

The bridge's board, how-

long been a destination for people seeking to end their lives. Since it opened in 1937, more than 1,400 people have plunged to their deaths, including a record 46 suicides last year, officials said.

Officials have been discussing a suicide barrier on the bridge for decades. The bridge's board voted in 2008 to install a stainless steel net, rejecting other options, including raising the 4-foot (1.2-meter)-high railings and leaving the iconic span unchanged.

Two years later, they certified the final environmental impact report for the net, which would stretch about 20 feet (six meters) wide on each side of the span. Of-

"The Golden Gate Bridge is a source of immense pride to San Francisco, but for too many families in our community, it has also been a place of pain," Pelosi said. "A suicide prevention barrier offers a critical second chance for troubled men and women acting on often impulsive suicidal thoughts. Together, we can ensure this magnificent landmark stands as a faithful companion for all San Franciscans, awing and inspiring visitors for generations to come."

Most jumpers suffer a grisly death, with massive internal injuries, broken bones and skull fractures. Some die from internal bleeding. Others drown.

In Atlanta, some dispute murder charges in hot-car death of boy

ALAN BLINDER

© 2014 New York Times

ATLANTA - The legal drama that has gripped this city for more than a week comes down to whether a 2011 Hyundai Tucson should be considered the scene of a crime or of a horrible mistake.

To the authorities in suburban Cobb County, the vehicle is the place where Justin Ross Harris murdered his 22-month-old son, Cooper, by leaving him in a rear-facing car seat for about seven hours on a warm Southern day.

Among Harris' supporters, some of whom seem to be wavering as new details have emerged, the answer is less clear. They contend that an absent-minded error is what led to the child's death on June 18.

The legal case is all the more unusual because at its center is not a woman - research indicates mothers are charged more often than fathers in such deaths - or a parent who was clearly under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Instead, the suspect is a suburban father with a corporate job at Home Depot who appeared overjoyed in a picture posted online when he and his son took in a baseball game.

Harris, 33, is part of what has become an alarmingly common fact of American life. At least 44 children died of heatstroke last year after being left in vehicles, according to statistics compiled by a San Francisco State University researcher, part of a toll of more than 600 deaths under similar circumstances since 1998. The vast majority of those deaths were accidents; the authorities contend that Cooper Harris' was not.

"The chain of events that occurred in this case does not point toward simple negligence," Chief John R. Houser of the Cobb County Police Department said in a statement this week, days after a department spokesman told CNN that what he knew of the matter "shocks my conscience as a police officer, a father and a grandfather."

Investigators filed a murder charge within hours of Cooper's death and have resisted demands to drop the case against Harris, whose lawyer did not respond to a message seeking comment. But in an arrest warrant issued this week, the authorities said that Harris had visited a restaurant before he drove to his workplace and left his son strapped in the car seat as he went in to work. During a later break, the police said, Harris returned to his vehicle, only to leave the child there again.

Whether Harris was aware of his son's presence is a subject of intense speculation. The police said that he did not alert anyone to the child's plight until after he left work and stopped at a shopping center to seek aid. Police officers who responded found the child already dead.

Harris' case has since become the subject of a campaign to exonerate him that has spread well beyond Cobb County. An online petition urging District Attorney D. Victor Reynolds to drop the charges gathered more than 11,000 signatures, although its organizers closed it Thursday because of "the recent developments."

A fundraising website collected at least \$22,000. And supporters posted a YouTube video accusing Reynolds of politicizing the case of Harris.

"In the hardest moments life can bring, the justice system is failing him," a narrator said in the video, which described the charges as "outrageous."

Through a spokeswoman, Reynolds declined to be interviewed. But Houser asked people not to reach "conclusions based on rumors or suspicions."



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US Financial Front:

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RON LIEBER

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If you're an active participant in social media, it's nearly impossible to avoid a running tally of everyone else's spending. New cars and home renovations are all over Facebook. Vacation photos, exotic meals and charity benefits are a fixture on Instagram.

It's tempting to think that your own life doesn't measure up. So what the world needs is more socially driven saving - a counterbalance consisting of reminders and affirmation that people who choose to put money away over spending it are investing in a happy future, even if they are not presently driving a convertible to their beach house. This year, Putnam Investments, which will soon become part of the second-biggest administrator of 401(k) plans, took a step toward giving customers some of this kind of comfort - or a kick in the pants. A central feature of its online retirement account statements is a new tool that allows users to see exactly how their savings rank against other Putnam account holders who are similar in age, income and gender. Then, using projections, it models how their numbers would change if they set more money aside from their paycheck - and allows them to make the change in a few clicks. Putnam refers to it as its "Joneses Tool," as in "Keeping up with."

Voya Financial, the ING spinoff whose online questionnaires will retain the ING branding for a few more months, has convinced 2 million people to try its ING Compare Me site since its introduction five years ago.



If you're an active participant in social media, it's nearly impossible to avoid a running tally of everyone else's spending. (Robert Neubecker/The New York Times)

There, people can see how their vacation spending, credit card debt and savings habits measure up to others like them. It recently freshened up its tools to make them simpler to use. The biggest goal that these companies share is to get people to set more money aside. Financial services firms win big when people do this, but so do those whose savings have fallen short so far. Putnam does not make its tool available to the general public, but it ran some numbers at my request to see where a variety of its customers stand at present.

To avoid a shrunken retirement budget, many people will need to save more money. For now, however, people are saving roughly the same percentage of their paychecks in their workplace retirement accounts as they were a decade ago. The economy hasn't helped, but inertia

may be at work too. Putnam had a hunch that by rubbing people's noses in the high savings of their peers, it could get the laggards to make some changes.

The results so far have been impressive. In a sample of 10,000 users, 32 percent used the social comparison tool and adjusted the salary deferral level to see how the results may change. Of those who did play with the lever, there was a 28 percent average increase in the set-aside, to 9.6 percent of the paycheck, from 7.5 percent. To make it easy for people to say yes, the Putnam tool tells people what the pretax effect would be on their paycheck if they do make the change and allows them to make the switch in two clicks.

There are a couple of other twists that may be helping Putnam achieve that kind of lift. On its site, it avoids what it describes as the

"accounting view" of information on display, where the balance would be the only thing a customer would see. A balance of a few hundred thousand dollars might seem like a decent amount of money, but it may not last more than a few years in retirement. Instead, it shows a customer's progress toward that ideal monthly retirement income goal and displays it front and center.

All of this takes place out of public view, even if the social comparisons do rely on volunteers to share personal data. That means something is missing here - the ability to broadcast your own good behavior.

While I don't think many people will be sharing their

Putnam percentile rank on Facebook anytime soon, it's possible to share incremental savings progress in a way that doesn't seem smug. For instance, financial services companies could provide a button to allow people to share the fact that they increased the money they're setting aside from their paychecks by at least a percentage point. Until they build this feature, let's have a go at it ourselves. If you've started to save more or spend more carefully or improved some other part of your financial life recently, please tweet about it in the coming days with the hashtag #bettermoney so that we can all pat one another on the back in public. □

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Iraq's top cleric urges quick deal on new PM

RYAN LUCAS
SAMEER N. YACOUB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's top Shiite cleric ratcheted up the pressure Friday on lawmakers to agree on a prime minister before the

and newly deployed U.S. military forces in the capital.

Less than three years after the last American troops left Iraq, Washington has found itself being pulled back in by the stunning of-

Many of al-Maliki's former allies, and even key patron Iran, have begun exploring alternatives to replace him. But al-Maliki, who has governed the country since 2006, has proven to be a savvy and hard-

alone, leaving him in need of allies to retain his post. That has set the stage for what could be months of arduous coalition negotiations. After 2010 elections, it took Iraqi politicians nine months to agree on a new prime minister. Now, unlike four years ago, the territorial cohesion of Iraq is at stake. Seizing on the sense of urgency, Iraq's most powerful Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, called on the country's politicians to agree on the next prime minister, parliament speaker and president by the time the new legislature meets on Tuesday, a cleric who represents him told worshippers in a sermon Friday in the holy city of Karbala. Doing so would be a "prelude to the political solution that everyone seeks at the present," said the cleric, Abdul-Mahdi al-Karbalaie. The reclusive al-Sistani, the most revered figure among Iraqi Shiites, rarely appears or speaks in public, instead delivering messages through other clerics or, less frequently, issuing edicts.

In Washington, the Obama administration backed al-Sistani's call for Iraqi leaders to agree on a new government "without delay."

"It's my understanding he was calling for a process that's in line with the constitution, just to do it very quickly," State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters.

"Which we certainly agree with because we think the situation is so serious that they need to move with urgency."

Still, the probability that Iraq's deeply divided political class can mend its differences in the span of days is unlikely.

The United States and other world powers have pressed al-Maliki to reach out to the country's Sunni and Kurdish minorities and have called for a more inclusive government that can address longstanding grievances. Al-Maliki has widely been accused of monopolizing power and alienating Sunnis, and his failure to promote national reconciliation has been blamed for fueling Sunni anger. □



A Kurdish peshmerga fighter takes his position behind a wall on the front line with militants from the al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), in Tuz Khormato, 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of the oil rich province of Kirkuk, northern Iraq. Iraq's top Shiite cleric ratcheted up the pressure Friday on lawmakers to agree on a prime minister before the newly elected parliament meets next week.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

newly elected parliament meets next week, trying to avert months of wrangling in the face of a Sunni insurgent blitz over huge tracts in the country's north and west.

The United States, meanwhile, started flying armed drones over Baghdad to protect American civilians

fensive spearheaded by the al-Qaida breakaway group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The onslaught has triggered the worst crisis in Iraq since the U.S. withdrawal and sapped public — and international — confidence in Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

nosed politician, and so far he has shown no willingness to step aside.

Al-Maliki can claim to have a mandate. He personally won the most votes in April elections, and his State of Law bloc won the most seats by far.

But he failed to gain the majority needed to govern

Pope Francis cancels event, citing ailment

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis canceled a planned visit to one of Rome's main hospitals Friday, the third time this month the 77-year-old has skipped or scaled back an event due to illness or fatigue.

Francis had been due to visit the Gemelli hospital to celebrate a Mass there Friday afternoon. But nearly an hour after he was due to arrive, the Vatican issued a statement saying he was canceling the trip due to an "unexpected in-

disposition."

Later, the Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said the pope's appointments for the weekend were confirmed and that there were "no concerns for his health."

The Argentine-born pontiff has only one full lung and suffers from a bad back that can make walking painful. Earlier this month, he skipped two days of audiences due to a stomach bug, then decided not to walk a mile-long procession last week to rest up for a grueling trip to southern Italy.

He held up remarkably well during the hot, 12-hour trip to Calabria, even getting out of his car along the road at one point to bless a sick young man who was wheeled up to his motorcade on a stretcher.

He has another busy weekend ahead of him, including audiences on Saturday and a major Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Square.

The Vatican has insisted the pope isn't suffering from any major health issues, pointing to his busy schedule and plans for a whirlwind trip to South Korea in August. □



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Afghan candidate and thousands of supporters continue protests

AZAM AHMED

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KABUL, Afghanistan - Thousands of supporters of the presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah poured into the streets of Kabul on Friday, blocking roads and clogging squares as they demanded that allegations of election fraud be addressed before ending the political crisis that has stratified Afghanistan for the last two weeks. It was the second such protest on behalf of Abdullah, who has accused his opponent, Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, of orchestrating

widespread ballot stuffing with the help of the nation's election commission. This time, however, as many as 15,000 people crammed into the streets of the capital, a show of force that eclipsed past efforts and drew people from well outside of the city. The protests again remained nonviolent, and again were largely young males from the country's ethnic Tajik and Hazara populations, who form Abdullah's support base. Different this time was Abdullah's presence, standing on top of a mov-

ing vehicle, clutching a large Afghan flag while waving to a sea of admirers. But a strain of tension and animosity visible at the earlier protest seemed amplified Friday, as the stasis over the election dragged into its 13th day. "We are gathered here to show our unity and convey our message that either separate the fraudulent votes from the actual ones or we will continue our protest violently," said Faiz Agha, a 23-year-old student.



Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah holds up the flag of Afghanistan during protests in Kabul, Afghanistan, June 27, 2014. Supporters of Abdullah demonstrated on Friday against fraud in the presidential runoff allegedly involving Zia ul-Haq Amarkhail, Afghanistan's chief electoral officer, despite his resignation on Monday.

(Diego Ibarra Sanchez/The New York Times)

Lawyer says Beijing meddling with HK

KELVIN CHAN

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hundreds of Hong Kong lawyers dressed in black marched in silence Friday to protest a recent Beijing policy statement they say undermines the Asian financial hub's rule of law. The demonstration is the latest sign of growing anger over mainland China's expanding influence over Hong Kong, which was promised a high degree of autonomy after the former British colony returned to Beijing's control 17 years

ago. Under the principle of "one country, two systems," Hong Kong — unlike the mainland — is guaranteed Western-style civil liberties and independent courts. Beijing triggered a massive backlash when it released a policy statement earlier this month outlining its interpretation of "one country, two systems." The statement left Hong Kong's legal community fuming because it said "loving the country" was a requirement for judges, whom it characterized as part of

the city's administration, similar to senior officials, legislators and the city's Beijing-backed leader. "I think the message is clear: that they expect judges to consider political issues when it comes to the adjudication of cases, and that is completely unacceptable under our system," said Dennis Kwok, a lawmaker representing the legal sector who led the protest. He estimated that 1,700 showed up while police said 850 people took part in the rally.

Syrian rebels buckling in the face of radical jihadis

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Syrian rebels that the U.S. now wants to support are in poor shape, on the retreat from the radical al-Qaida breakaway group that has swept over large parts of Iraq and Syria, with some rebels giving up the fight. It is not clear whether the new U.S. promise to arm them will make a difference. Some, more hard-line Syrian fighters are bending to the winds and joining the radicals.

The Obama administration is seeking \$500 million to train and arm what it calls "moderate" factions among the rebels, a far larger project than a quiet CIA-led effort in Jordan that has been training a few hundreds fighters a month. But U.S. officials say it will take year to get the new program fully underway. The U.S. also faces the difficult task of what constitutes a "moderate" rebel in a movement dominated by Islamist ideologies.

Opposition activists complain that after long hesitating to arm the rebellion to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad — their main goal — the United States is now enlisting them against the Islamic State out of its own interests. They have long argued that the group, which aims to create a radical Islamic enclave bridging Syria and Iraq, was only able to gain such power in Syria because more moderate forces were not given international support.

"This decision is a year and a half too late," said Ahmad Ramadan, a senior member of the Western-backed Syrian National Coalition opposition group. "Had it not been for Obama's hesitation all along, this wouldn't be happening in Iraq today nor would there be this proliferation of extremist factions in Syria," he added.

Meeting with Syrian opposition leader Ahmed al-Jarba in the Saudi city of Jeddah on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry made clear the priority in helping the rebels was to fight the Islamic State — not only in Syria but possibly also in Iraq.

The moderate opposition in Syria "has the ability to be a very important player in pushing back against ISIL's presence and to have them not just in Syria, but also in Iraq," Kerry said.

Al-Jarba, who leads a coalition in exile that only has nominal authority over some rebels on the ground, welcomed the aid, and appealed for more. But in Syria, opposition activists were skeptical.

The aid "will only worsen the crisis," said an activist in the northern city of Aleppo, using his nickname Abu Bishr for his own protection. "They want Syria to enter a new war" between rebels and extremists. "This will not help at all."

As the Islamic State has blitzed across much of northern and western Iraq this month, its fighters have also advanced in Syria against other rebels. They now hold most of the Euphrates River valley in eastern Syria. They have tightened their siege on the one major hold-out city in that region, Deir el-Zour.

In the past two weeks, they have also captured a string of villages in the northern province of Aleppo. Islamic State's fighters in Syria have been boosted by advanced weapons, tanks and Humvees captured in Iraq and then transported to Syria.

In a significant development, beleaguered Nusra Front fighters surrounded by Islamic State forces in the town of Boukamal on the border with Iraq defected this week and joined the Islamic State.

Haiti ex-president Leslie Manigat has died

EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) —

Leslie Manigat, a prominent figure in the Haitian political establishment whose term as president was cut short by a military coup in 1988, has died. He was 83.

The former president died at home before dawn Friday after a long period of illness, according to Evans Baubrun, deputy secretary of Manigat's political party.

Baubrun said Manigat's condition may have been complicated by a recent bout of chikungunya, a debilitating mosquito-borne virus that has been rapidly spreading in Haiti since the first locally transmitted cases emerged earlier this year.

President Michel Martelly said he was saddened by the loss of Manigat, referring to him as "professor,"

as he was widely known in Haiti. "With this death, the Republic has lost one of its worthy sons," he said.

The death "creates a huge void in the Haitian intellectual community and in the world," said Prime Minister Prime Laurent Lamothe. A statement issued by his office said Manigat "contributed to the education of several generations of Haitians and has helped to enhance our national pride."

Manigat, a former professor of history and political science, won the presidency in January 1988 amid the tumult that followed the fall of former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier two years earlier.

The election, which was boycotted by the main opposition parties, was widely seen as illegitimate. A round of balloting three months earlier was called off after gunmen shot

into lines of voters at polling stations and other assailants hacked people to death. Witnesses said soldiers took part in the shooting and the opposi-

Upon fleeing to the neighboring Dominican Republic, he appeared finished with politics.

"I'm not going to fall into the classic trap of deposed

He did eventually return

He did eventually return



In this Jan. 12, 1987 file photo, Leslie Manigat, presidential candidate of the National democratic Progressive Party, speaks in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Officials in Haiti are reporting the death of former President Manigat, whose short term in office was ended by a military coup in 1988. The deputy secretary of Manigat's political party says the 83-year-old former president died at his home early Friday, June 27, 2014. (AP Photo/Scott Applewhite)

IMF's Lagarde expresses confidence with Jamaica

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) —

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund on Friday praised Jamaica's political leadership for making key economic reforms during the first year of a \$930 million loan package with the Washington-based institution.

During a three-day visit to the Caribbean nation of 2.7 million people, Christine Lagarde said Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller's government has displayed "extraordinary leadership" and an economic reform program was "off to a very strong start." Jamaica has so far met all the objectives of a four-year arrangement with the IMF, she said. Over the past year, Jamaica has passed four tests in a row without shortfalls. That's an "exceptionally strong record by IMF standards," Lagarde said during remarks at Simpson-Miller's offices in the capital of Kingston.

"The economic outlook is

improving. Compared to a year ago, growth has picked up, unemployment has declined, inflation has been brought under control, the current account deficit has shown an ongoing improvement and reserves are starting to recover," Lagarde said.

The island, which has long had one of the world's slowest growing economies, entered into its latest arrangement with the IMF last year after a 2010 deal fizzled out under another administration. The current four-year extended fund facility was started amid grim economic forecasts for the debt-shackled island. But this time around, there's growing hope that Jamaica will be able to kick-start sustained growth and tackle a punishing public debt burden of roughly 140 percent of GDP. It might even be a notable success story for the IMF, said Damien King, head of the economics department at Jamaica's campus of the University of the West Indies. □

tion said the military orchestrated the bloodshed to ruin the first free election in three decades.

Within six months, Manigat was ousted in a coup led by Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy.

political men who see the return to power from one moment to the other and pass all their time waiting for that imminent return," he told reporters at the time. "I'm not only a politi-

to Haiti and politics. He ran for president in 2006 but came in second to Rene Preval. In 2010, his wife, Mirlande Manigat, ran and was defeated by Martelly. □

Race & Sports Book





BET ON YOUR FAVORITE TEAM




Ramadan rush:

Mega-rich shoppers descend on London

SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Before the fast, let there be a shopping feast.

From Harrods in Knightsbridge to the glittering diamond stores in Mayfair, London has long attracted big spenders. But every year around the holy month of Ramadan, which starts this weekend, a wave

increased religious observance. Another surge takes place during the Eid holiday, which marks the end of Ramadan.

The spike in shoppers during the summer months has been so regular and noticeable on London's streets that some have jokingly dubbed the phenomenon the "Harrods Hajj,"

and Qatar make up only a small percentage of total visits to Britain compared with those from the U.S. and Europe, they tend to be much more lavish spenders on average. Official figures show that Middle Eastern tourists ranked just 19th in terms of numbers of people last year, but came second in total spend — 888 million pounds (\$1.5 billion).

watches and jewelry, though a Harrods spokeswoman said food gifts like luxury fruit baskets and extravagantly packaged dates and cocoa-dusted almonds also sell briskly. Ramadan falls on the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Muslims around the world fast from dawn to sunset for a month, starting from Saturday.



People walk around a shopping mall in west London. London has long attracted big spenders. But every year around the holy month of Ramadan, which starts this weekend, a surge of spectacularly rich Middle Eastern shoppers arrive and take retail therapy to a whole new level — complete with an entourage of bodyguards, chauffeurs, and Gulf-registered Rolls-Royces and Ferraris flown in just for the occasion. It's a huge and growing market for British shops, luxury hotels and restaurants, and many welcome the big spenders with exclusive products and VIP services like translators and personal shopping managers.

(AP Photo/Leferis Pitarakis)

of spectacularly rich Middle Eastern shoppers arrives and takes retail therapy to a whole new level — complete with an entourage of bodyguards, chauffeurs, and Gulf-registered Rolls-Royces and Ferraris flown in just for the occasion.

Retailers call the boost in business the Ramadan Rush: A hugely lucrative and fast-growing market driven by wealthy Arabs who travel to Britain to escape the desert heat and indulge in buying luxury gifts before flying home for a month of fasting and

after the traditional Islamic pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

"London is the place in Europe where the Middle Eastern visitor shops the most. It is almost their second home," said Gordon Clark, U.K. manager at Global Blue, the Switzerland-based retail research firm. The company estimates that pre-Ramadan sales last July jumped 60 percent compared with the previous year.

Although tourists from the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

The Kuwaitis are the biggest spenders, shelling out some 1,340 pounds (\$2,275) per transaction last July, Clark said.

That corresponds with data from the London Luxury Quarter, a group that represents some of the highest-end businesses in central London. It said the average spend from Middle Eastern shoppers last year came just behind the Chinese, its top customers.

Unsurprisingly, the best sellers are exclusive designer handbags and shoes,

The weeks surrounding the month offer retailers an opportunity they can't afford to miss, and many brands have responded to the trend by rolling out VIP services just for the period.

"We have been working with luxury retailers who offer exclusive products during pre-Ramadan," said Myf Ryan, marketing director at west London's Westfield shopping center. "Dior has limited-edition exotic skin handbags, and Louis Vuitton and Burberry are offering private client services."

Colombia mayors regulating World Cup merrymaking

CESAR GARCIA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Authorities in major Colombia cities are again imposing bans on alcohol and curfews for minors Saturday to discourage mayhem on a big World Cup game day. At least one is even banning motorcycles. The chief of citizen security for Colombia's national police, Gen. Jorge Nieto told The Associated Press that thousands of extra officers would be on the streets of Bogota and other major cities when Colombia meets Uruguay in Rio de Janeiro for its first knockout round contest.

A 24-hour alcohol sales ban will be in effect for Colombia's capital and other cities. Only a few big cities, including Medellin and Barranquilla, are bucking the trend.

Mayors credit the measures with helping reduce vandalism and celebration-related deaths. They were imposed only after Colombia topped Greece in its first match on June 14 and nine people died.

On Tuesday, when Colombia drubbed Japan, police reported just one violent death associated with World Cup merrymaking. Mayor David Castillo of Cucuta, a provincial capital bordering Venezuela, barred unaccompanied minors from the streets that day. He added a new measure for Saturday.

"We are also going to ban motorcycles," he said by phone. "There will be 60,000 motorcycles out of circulation, so there will be no convoys (mobs), and that way we'll avoid people throwing flour — and accidents."

The controls did not sit well with many merchants.

"We waited 16 years to get back in the World Cup and they surprise us with these 'dry law' measures," said Guillermo Botero, president of the National Federation of Retailers. "They are practically forcing us to shut ourselves up in our houses."



Aruba Hi-Winds 2014 Kicks Off July 1st!



FISHERMAN'S HUTS - It is almost time for the 28th edition of the Aruba Hi-Winds. Only a few days to go and a full week of kite and windsurfing action will be held at Fisherman's Huts. Fisherman's Huts will be the place to be from July 1 till 7 for Pro and Amateur Kite and Windsurfers from all over the world. Aruba Hi-Winds has participants from the Caribbean, South and North America and a lot from Europe. The beach is open for everybody and there will be many activities during the Hi-Winds week. We have done our upper

best during the preparation period from February until the end of June and it is looking good! Every edition of the Aruba Hi-Winds has his own style. This year we want to make Hi-Winds pleasant for everybody. It means we have many categories on different levels. We have a Pro, a Men's, a (Grand)Master, a Women's, a Junior, a Kids and a Beginners category. We are having competitions at Fisherman's Huts and at Boca Grandi again. This year with a little difference compared to last year's editions, because

Boca Grandi is a one day event! Also new is the KPMG children's event, which is a SUP challenge for the Foundation of Children's Home Imeldahof. Aruba Hi-Winds finds it important that everybody can experience watersports; being active, feeling free and having fun in the water. This year, Aruba Hi-Winds has a great line-up for the entertainment after the Happy Hours from 5 till 7 sponsored by Amstel Bright! The best local DJ's and bands will play during Hi-Winds, like Sunglass Mafia ft. Roger Peterson, Ear-

plugs, Probono and Mystical Connection. For the Electronic music fans we have Astor Kuiperi, DNL, AudioRush, Nutzbeatz and many more. For full time entertainment in the weekend, we have Cool FM and Fresh FM in Cas di Glas live

big, so be there! To get a good impression of the Aruba Hi-Winds, check out our Hi-Winds 2014 trailer on YouTube and the following Social Media will keep you updated! Official App: Aruba Hi-Winds



at the beach and there is also going to be a Fashion Show sponsored by Kok Optical! It is going to be

Facebook: Aruba Hi-Winds
Twitter: @ArubaHiWinds
Instagram: #ArubaHiWinds
See you all at the beach! ☐

At The Aruba Marriott: Accounting Team Completes University Cost Accounting I Course



PALM BEACH - Recently ten associates of the Aruba Marriott's Accounting Department enthusiastically attended the Cost Accounting I annex offered by the University of Aruba, where they learned about cost accounting principles. The associates were extremely excited and committed in attending the course and were great sup-

port to each other throughout. The course took place at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino and was led by instructor Edward Erasmus.

The associates would like to thank Dean Joost Jacobs and instructor Edward Erasmus of the University of Aruba for supporting the associates' vision and making the oppor-



tunity a successful reality.

The list of brave students who completed the course with great success are Merelyn Arends, Glenn d' Aguiar, Alexander Cruz, Debbie Frans, Elvis Gomes, Jennifer Hector, Susette Hoftijzer, Sibella Jansen, Carlos Thode and Ratna Soekrasno. In August they will take on their next challenge which is the

Financial Reporting I course. "We strongly believe in developing our associates so they can be the best at their job and ready for growth opportunities ahead", shared Pamela Heim, Director of Finance. Management and staff of the Aruba Marriott congratulate the Accounting Department with their brilliant accomplishments. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! *Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"*



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

Loyal Guests Honored at Marriott Aruba Surf Club

PALM BEACH - Recently at the Marriott Surf Club, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for 10 and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Visitor certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are given the Goodwill Ambassador certificate.

The recent honoring was given by Aruba Tourism Authority representative Marouska Heyliger at the Marriott Surf Club which they call their home away from home. Honorees are Rick and Debra Ott from Texas, and Norman and Alexandra Tsacalis from New Jersey as Distinguished Visitors. On the pictures all honorees together with the GM Joop Bangma and Jenny Boekhoudt of the Marriott Surf Club. □



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Aruba Trading and Amazonia Proud to Present Winners!



PALM BEACH – During Father's Day week, Amazonia delivered excellent food in a family atmosphere, combined with a number of surprises, which topped the exciting dining experience

off. Fine local liquor purveyor, Aruba Trading Company, was asked to pitch in with some fun prizes, and then Amazonia also awarded a sumptuous dinner gift cer-

tificate to one lucky diner. The gifts were handed out at a small gathering, in which Corne van den Broek won dinner for two, Yuan Zheng Wu and Evan Peterson, won a bottle of Hennessy Cognac each, Oreon Mathew won a Dutch goodie bag, Taylor Escobedo a Brazil goodie bag, Ferdinand Fluowig and Laumar Lasten hats, and Leonard Rozado a pack of Presidente Light beer.

All holidays are always celebrated in great style at Amazonia, says General Manager Raymond Talbot, who also informed that the new Sushi Salsa, is ready to receive sushi lovers at any time, and the Amazonia refreshed bar and lounge is open to entertain and thrill soccer fans. Pictured here prizes awarded to lucky winners.



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United States' head coach Jurgen Klinsmann talks during a press conference before a training session in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Tuesday, June 24, 2014. The United States will play Germany in group G of the 2014 soccer World Cup on June 26 in Recife, Brazil.

Associated Press

U.S. hopes to boost World Cup attack against Belgium

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — No wonder the United States is having problems scoring at the World Cup: The Americans are hardly attacking. Coach Jurgen Klinsmann is eager for the U.S. to create more chances in Tuesday's second-round game against Belgium. The U.S. had just 72 attacks during three group-stage games, according to FIFA. That ranked 31st among the 32 teams, ahead of only Costa Rica's 69. The Americans were dead last in attacks from the left with 21 and tied for last with Iran with 29 from the center. Right back Fabian Johnson seems to be providing the spark for most forays upfield, advancing more often than left back DaMarcus Beasley. Midfielder Graham Zusi insists the approach and attitude must change if they are to reach the quarterfinals for the first time since 2002.

Continued on Next Page



Novak Djokovic of Serbia falls onto his shoulder during the men's singles match against Gilles Simon of France at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Friday, June 27, 2014.

Associated Press

Djokovic overcomes fall at Wimbledon

STEPHEN WILSON
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Novak Djokovic lay crumpled on Centre Court, clutching his upper left arm and grimacing. He felt something pop and feared the worst. Djokovic had lunged for a shot behind the baseline, tumbled on the grass and rolled over twice, his racket flying from his hand. His new coach, Boris Becker, stood in the player's box and looked on gravely. Slowly, Djokovic rose from the turf, still holding his arm across his chest and made his way to his chair. "When I stood up, I felt that click or pop, whatever you call it," he said later. "I feared maybe it might be a dislocated shoulder or something like that." It wasn't. After a medical timeout and treatment from a trainer, the top-seeded Djokovic needed just four more games to complete

a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 win over France's Gilles Simon on Friday, sending him into the fourth round and keeping alive his bid for a second Wimbledon title and seventh Grand Slam championship. "Luckily there is nothing damaged," Djokovic said. "I just came from the doctor's office, ultrasound. It's all looking good. I'm quite confident that it will not affect my physical state or regimen or daily routine. I think it's going to be fine." Djokovic will have two days off before an intriguing matchup Monday against another Frenchman, the free-swinging 14th-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. "They told me usually in these kind of particular cases you might feel soreness in the next couple of days," Djokovic said. "But I can play around with practices and recovery and see how it goes. But I'm quite confident it's going to be

all right for next one." He felt all right enough to joke that he had talked to Becker about improving his style. "We obviously need to work on my diving volleys, learning how to fall down on the court," he said. "I'm not very skillful in that." Djokovic's injury scare came on a day that also featured the elimination of second-seeded woman Li Na and a three-set, 2 ½-hour Centre Court battle between two former female champions — with 2011 winner Petra Kvitova overcoming five-time champ Venus Williams 5-7, 7-6 (2), 7-5. Defending men's champion Andy Murray, who hasn't dropped a set this week, extended his winning streak at the All England Club to 16 matches by beating Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain 6-2, 6-3, 6-2. The streak goes back to his gold-medal run at the 2012

London Olympics, which was played at Wimbledon. No. 6 Tomas Berdych, runner-up at Wimbledon four years ago, became the highest-seeded man to go out so far when he fell to No. 26 Marin Cilic 7-6 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (6) in match that finished in near darkness at 9:36 p.m. Berdych, who had called for play to be suspended because of the fading light, hit a forehand long on the second match point. Cilic finished with 20 aces. Li, the Australian Open champion, fell 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5) to 43rd-ranked Barbora Zlahavova Strycova of the Czech Republic in the first major upset of the tournament. Since winning her second Grand Slam title in Melbourne in January, Li has lost in the first round of the French Open and now failed to reach the second week at Wimbledon.

Continued on Page 20



U.S. Belgium

Continued from previous Page

"The first minutes of the game, impose yourself, step on their toes a bit, get in their face," he said.

The Americans know they have to surge upfield more often if they hope to reach a quarterfinal against Argentina or Switzerland — a lot more often.

A day after advancing despite a 1-0 loss to Germany in rainy Recife, they worked out at Sao Paulo Futebol Clube, where the temperature on the sunny day peaked at 81 degrees (27 Celsius), 12 (6 Celsius) above normal.

They plan to fly Sunday to Salvador, another beach city on the northeast coast for the matchup against Belgium. The Red Devils, back in soccer's showcase after a 12-year absence, have won three straight World Cup games for the first time with one-goal victories over Algeria, Russia and South Korea. And their 136 attacks are seventh overall and nearly double the American total.

While Klinsmann wants his team to play attractive, attacking soccer, it hasn't worked out that way. The Americans had scored in eight straight World Cup games before getting shut out Thursday. "It's definitely something that we learned out of the Germany game. We were too deep — especially the first 20 minutes," Klinsmann said. "I was screaming my lungs off there to get the back line out and to move the entire unit high up the field. We will work on that in next couple days in training, to shift our entire game up forward. So that will put more pressure on the opponents and create more chances." The U.S. had 41 percent possession in its 2-1 win over Ghana, 48 percent in its 2-2 draw against Portugal and 37 percent versus Germany. The Americans have been outshot 54-27 in the three matches.

And this had occurred in a World Cup in which offense is up. There were an average of 2.83 goals per game in the group stage, up 35 percent from 2.10 in South Africa four years ago and the highest in the initial phase since 1958's



United States' Michael Bradley, right, congratulates his teammate Jermaine Jones after qualifying for the next World Cup round following their 1-0 loss to Germany during the group G World Cup soccer match between the USA and Germany at the Arena Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil, Thursday, June 26, 2014.

Associated Press

3.37, according to STATS.

Jozy Altidore, the top American forward, has been sidelined since straining his left hamstring in the first half against Ghana. Klinsmann said "we are optimistic we have him being a part of the Belgium game" but didn't go into detail on Altidore's recovery. Altidore looked strong running laps, then stretched on the sideline under the direction of medical staff.

In the last two games, Klinsmann opted for a 4-2-3-1 formation with five midfielders to feed Clint Dempsey as the lone striker.

Thus far, the U.S. has had just four solo runs into the penalty area, in a four-way tie for 27th, and the formation frequently morphs into a 4-4-1-1.

"We have to bring up the players higher up and

create chances get more support for Clint and come down the line more often on the sides," Klinsmann said. "This is something we will work on in the next few days."

While midfielder Michael Bradley hasn't been at his sharpest, he was the endurance-man of the first round, leading all players with 23.6 miles (38 kilometers) covered.

"He is all over the place. The defensive work that Michael puts in is absolutely outstanding," Klinsmann said. "We know that he can add something extra to it going forward. He also needs to help with the team by shifting higher up. If we can get Michael more into that role behind Clint, I think we are even more dangerous then. So there is more to come." □

Pregnant runner Alysia Montano finishes 800

MICHAEL WAGAMAN

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, California

(AP) — Thirty-four weeks pregnant, Alysia Montano ran the 800 meters Thursday in the U.S. Track and Field Championships.

The five-time national champion finished in 2 minutes, 32.13 seconds in the qualifying rounds, only seven weeks before she's

scheduled to give birth to her first child.

That the 28-year-old former University of California star finished last in her heat didn't matter one bit to the crowd gathered at Hornet Stadium. Trailing the lead pack by more than 120 meters for most of the race, Montano received a rousing ovation as she finished her first lap

and the cheering grew louder when she finally crossed the finish line.

"I've been running throughout my pregnancy and I felt really, really good during the whole process," Montano said. "I just didn't want to get lapped and be the first person to get lapped in the 800."

Montano, who won the 800 national titles the past

four years, was never in trouble of being lapped. She took a nice relaxed pace from the start and maintained it throughout. That was according to the plan Montano laid out after consulting with her physician. Not only did doctors give Montano the OK to run, they encouraged her.

"That took away any

fear of what the outside world might think about a woman running during her pregnancy," Montano said. "What I found out mostly was that exercising during pregnancy is actually much better for the mom and the baby. ... I did all the things I normally do ... I just happened to be pregnant. This is my normal this year." □

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WORLD CUP BRASIL 2014

A short return for Tiger Woods at Congressional

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP)

— Tiger Woods missed a 36-hole cut for only the 10th time on the PGA Tour as he showed signs of rust from three months out of competition, shooting a 75 on Friday to miss the cut at the Quicken Loans National by four strokes.

Right when he was poised to make a run, Woods made four straight bogeys on the back nine at Congressional.

He had back surgery to alleviate a pinched nerve on March 31 and had aimed to return for the British Open next month. Instead, he played the Quicken Loans National because he felt strong enough, and because it benefits his foundation.

"I came back four weeks earlier than we thought I could," Woods said. "I had no setbacks. I got my feel for playing tournament golf. I made a ton of simple, little mistakes — misjudging things and missing the ball on the wrong sides and just didn't get up-and-down on little, simple shots. Those are the little things I can correct."

Marc Leishman of Australia holed out from 127 yards on the par-5 ninth hole for a birdie on his way to a 5-under 66 and a four-way share of the lead going into the weekend.

Oliver Goss, another Aussie

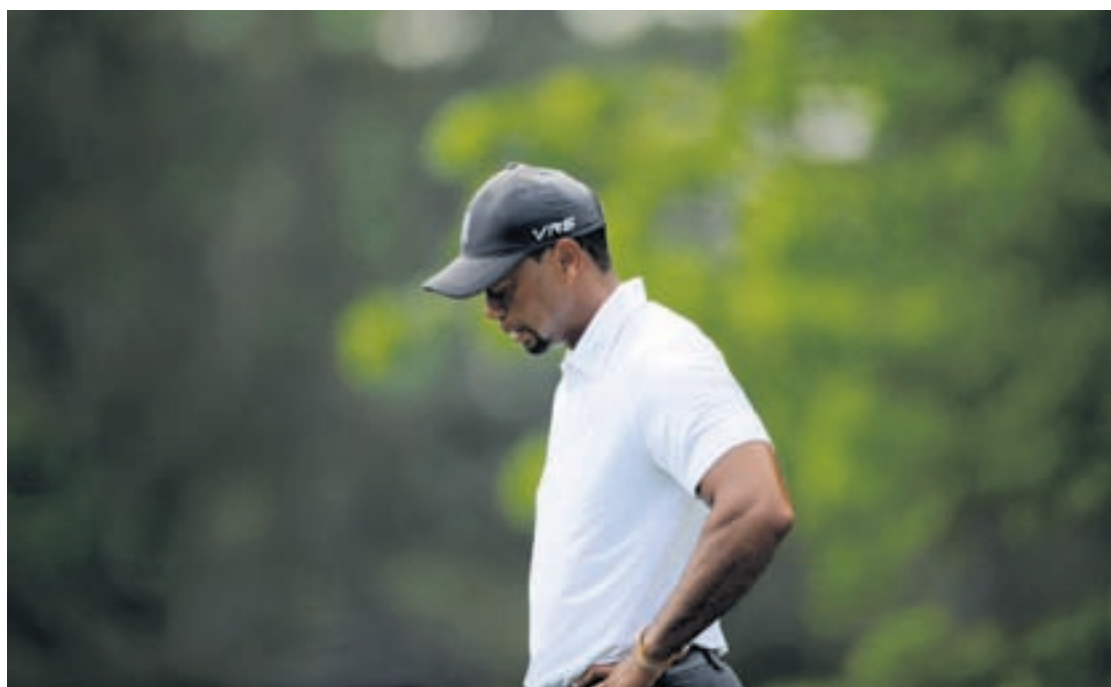
who is making his second pro start, had a bogey-free 66 and joined Leishman at 6-under 136 along with Ricky Barnes (69) and Patrick Reed (68), who already has won twice this year. Woods was 13 shots behind at 7-over 148.

He took two shots to get out of a plugged lie in a bunker on the fifth hole and made double bogey. He three-putted for par on the next hole and never looked more sloppy than on the short par-4 eighth. He drove it to 61 yards from the hole but took another four shots to hole it from there.

The worst damage came after consecutive bogeys around the turn. His tee shot went into a hazard on No. 11, hit a wild hook off the tee on the 12th, played a poor chip from below the green on the 13th, and from the 14th fairway, he missed the green and hit another poor chip.

"The short game was off," Woods said. "I've been practicing on Bermuda grass, and I grew the grass up at my house and it was Bermuda. But come out here and play rye, it's totally different. And it showed. I was off. I probably should have spent more time chipping over on the chipping green than I did. But that's the way it goes."

Woods face a dilemma in his efforts to get up to competition speed. He is



Tiger Woods pauses after he putted on the eighth green while waiting for his group to finish the hole during the second round of the Quicken Loans National golf tournament, Friday, June 27, 2014, in Bethesda, Md.

Associated Press

not playing next week at The Greenbrier Classic because he is taking his children on vacation, and it might not be prudent to cram in a lot of play so soon after back surgery.

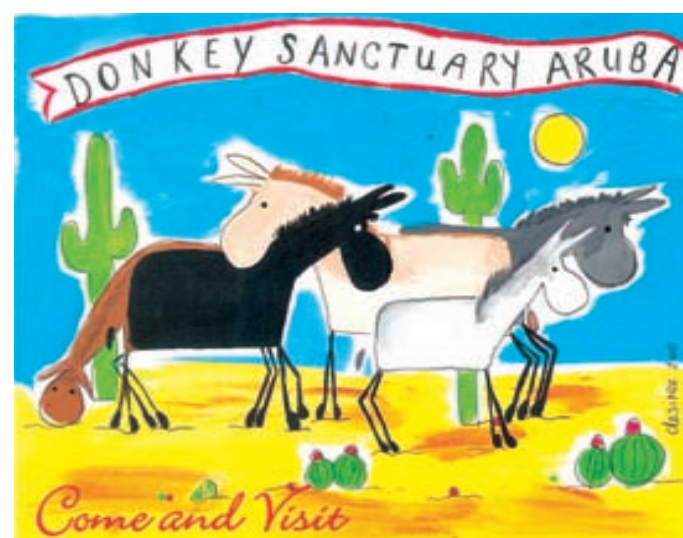
His next tournament would appear to be the British Open at Hoylake, where he won in 2006.

"I need to get back into competitive feel and just to feel it — to hit shots and shake some stuff off and see how things work," he said. "One thing I was worried about was hitting driver at a competitive speed, and it was fantastic. I let it go and it was no problem at all. But I made so many little mistakes, which was

something that I can rectify and get that fixed for the British."

Ten players were separated by only two shots going into the weekend, and

there was only a nine-shot differential from first to last place. Former U.S. Open champion Justin Rose had 65 to get within three shots of the lead. □



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WORLD CUP BRASIL 2014

Wimbledon Continued from page 17

Li double-faulted on match point — after the point was replayed when she won a challenge on a forehand that had been called out. Joining Kvitova and Zaslavova Strycova in the fourth round were two other Czechs, Lucie Safarova and Tereza Smitkova — the first time in the Open era four Czech women have reached the final 16 at a Grand Slam.

Kvitova beat Williams for the fourth time in five matches. All have gone to three sets.

Williams and Kvitova play similar games and they put on a Centre Court show of brutal power tennis. There were only three break points, and two breaks,



Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic returns to Venus Williams of U.S. during their women's singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Friday, June 27, 2014.

Associated Press

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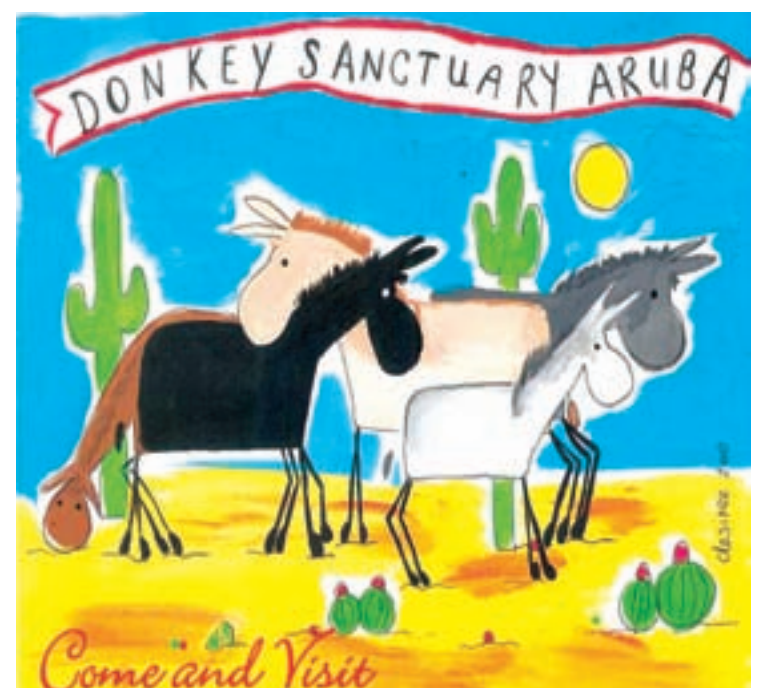
the entire match. Williams came within two points of winning at 5-4 in the second set, with Kvitova serving at 15-30, but couldn't put her away.

Now 34, and slowed in recent years by an energy-sapping autoimmune disease, Williams made a strong showing at this tournament and again dismissed any talk of retirement.

"People have been trying to retire me since I was like 25," she said. "I'm not get-

ting out of here. ... I'm finding my way back on my feet. I'm proud of myself for what I'm achieving on the court."

With seven major titles in her career, Williams hasn't given up on winning more. "I want to win Grand Slams," she said. "Everybody does. No one gives it to you. They snatch it away and say, 'Mine.' That's what I'll have to do is snatch it, say, 'Mine,' too, growl if need be."



Angels beat Twins 6-4 to finish perfect homestand

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Mike Trout and Albert Pujols drove in two runs apiece, Jered Weaver pitched seven strong innings, and the Los Angeles Angels completed a perfect homestand with a 6-4 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Thursday.

Pujols had three hits and Josh Hamilton drove in a run to help the Angels win their sixth straight and move a season-best 11 games over .500 (44-33). Trout had two doubles, including a two-run drive down the left-field line in the seventh.

The Angels have won 15 of 17 in Anaheim, where they have the majors' best home record. Los Angeles swept Texas and Minnesota to complete its first unbeaten homestand with at least six games since May 2004. Weaver (8-6) yielded eight hits — all singles — and struck out six to improve to 7-0 in eight career starts against Minnesota. The right-hander, who threw a no-hitter against Minnesota in 2012, has given up one run in 24 innings while striking out 24 in his last three home meetings with the Twins.

Joe Mauer hit a three-run



Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols watches his RBI double against the Minnesota Twins during the third inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Thursday, June 26, 2014. The Angels won 6-4. Associated Press

double with two outs in the ninth for Minnesota.

Ricky Nolasco (4-6) was the loser.

TIGERS 6, RANGERS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)

— Rick Porcello pitched a three-hitter for his first ca-

reer shutout and 10th victory this season as Detroit beat skidding Texas to win its seventh consecutive game.

Miguel Cabrera had four hits and Austin Jackson hit a two-run single for the

AL Central leaders, who completed a three-game sweep.

While the Tigers have the longest winning streak in the majors, Texas has the longest losing streak at eight in a row.

Porcello (10-4) limited the Rangers to three singles and benefited from three double plays. He struck out six and walked three, throwing a season-high 115 pitches.

It was only the second complete game for Porcello in 164 major league starts — all for the Tigers since 2009. The right-hander has won at least 10 games in each of his six seasons.

Rangers rookie Nick Martinez (1-5) allowed six hits and walked five of the 18 batters he faced in 2 1-3 innings. Texas has its longest losing streak since dropping eight in a row in August 2005.

BLUE JAYS 7, WHITE SOX 0

TORONTO (AP) — Adam Lind had three hits and three RBIs, and J.A. Happ pitched a season-high 7 2-3 innings in Toronto's shutout of Chicago.

Jose Reyes had four hits and scored twice as the AL East leaders handed the struggling White Sox their seventh loss in eight games.

Chicago lost for the 10th time in 11 road games.

Happ (7-4) allowed four hits and won for the third time in five starts. The left-hander struck out a season-high eight.

Chicago center fielder Adam Eaton left in the first inning with cramps in his left leg.

Starting for the first time since May 19, White Sox right-hander Scott Carroll (2-4) gave up five runs and nine hits in five innings.

ASTROS 6, BRAVES 1

HOUSTON (AP) — Matt Dominguez broke out of a slump with a three-run homer and rookie George Springer also went deep to back seven strong innings by Jarred Cosart in Houston's victory over Atlanta.

Dominguez helped the Astros avoid a series sweep, snapping an 0-for-23 skid with his two-out shot to left-center off Mike Minor (2-5) that made it 5-1 in the fifth.

Cosart (8-5) allowed six hits and a run for his fourth straight victory.

Springer hit a solo drive off Juan Jaime in the seventh. He has 15 homers this season, the most by a rookie in franchise history before the All-Star break. Lance Berkman had the previous mark with 12 in 2000. □

Keselowski's track record earns Kentucky pole

GARY B. GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

SPARTA, Kentucky (AP)

— Brad Keselowski set a track record speed for claim pole position on Friday for Saturday's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race at Kentucky Speedway.

Keselowski had a lap of 303.83 kph (188.791 mph) in the third knockout qualifying segment to take the pole for the 640-kilometer (400-mile race). Keselowski earned his third pole this season and the sixth of his career.

"I thought we were all going to be a lot slower, so I was a little bit surprised by the speeds that were ran," Keselowski said. "But (crew chief) Paul (Wolfe) did a good job working on and adjusting the car and get-

ting it to where I wanted it and they hit what I wanted."

A day in which 23 drivers broke Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s year-old track record in the first round of qualifying alone ended with the 2012 race winner Keselowski on top. He overtook Penske Racing teammate Joey Logano, who had the fastest time in each of the first two qualifying sessions.

"I wouldn't say we're destroying them, I think a lot of it is in the cars, to be honest with you," said Logano, a two-time winner this season. "I feel like our cars have just been fast."

Points leader Jeff Gordon will start third in a Chevy, salvaging a day in which Hendrick Motorsports teammates Jimmie John-



Brad Keselowski waits for the final round of qualifying for the NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky., Friday, June 27, 2014. Keselowski won the pole position.

Associated Press.

Dodgers edge Cards 1-0 on Turner's pinch single

The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pinch-hitter Justin Turner delivered an RBI single in the eighth inning off Adam Wainwright, and Los Angeles edged St. Louis in their first meeting since last year's NL championship series.

Josh Beckett pitched seven sharp innings in a tight duel with Wainwright, who held the Dodgers hitless through five. Left fielder Matt Kemp threw out a Cardinals runner at the plate in the seventh.

Juan Uribe, just off the disabled list after missing 34 games with a right hamstring strain, led off the eighth with a single and advanced on a sacrifice bunt by Drew Butera before rookie Miguel Rojas' infield single put runners at the corners. Turner, batting for reliever Brian Wilson, came through with his 20th RBI of the season.

Wilson (1-2) pitched a perfect inning and Kenley Jansen got three outs for his 24th save. Wainwright (10-4) took a hard-luck loss. He gave up five hits while going the dis-



Los Angeles Dodgers' Justin Turner runs up the first base line after hitting an RBI single to score Juan Uribe against the St. Louis Cardinals during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Thursday, June 26, 2014, in Los Angeles.

tance for the 19th time in 201 regular-season starts. **REDS 3, GIANTS 1**
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Brandon Phillips homered among his three hits and scored twice in his return to the lineup, leading Mike Leake and Cincinnati over San Francisco. Leake (6-6) allowed four hits in eight innings. He had

a career-high 12 strikeouts and walked one, which was intentional. Aroldis Chapman worked the ninth for his 15th save in 16 chances. Jay Bruce and Todd Frazier each added two hits for the Reds, who have won five of six. Bruce doubled in the seventh and has an extra-base hit in each of his

last seven games, the longest streak by a Reds player since Dave Parker did it in eight straight in 1986. Adam Duvall homered in his major league debut for the Giants, who lost for the 12th time in 16 games. Ryan Vogelsong (5-4) allowed one run and five hits over six innings one day after teammate Tim Lincecum

Associated Press

threw a no-hitter against San Diego.

Jean Machi gave up Phillips' homer leading off the seventh, ending his scoreless streak at 25 1-3 innings. Zack Cozart and Ryan Ludwick also drove in runs for the Reds, who have won eight of their last 10 games, including playoffs, in San Francisco.

BREWERS 7, ROCKIES 4
MILWAUKEE (AP) — Rickie Weeks had three hits, including a leadoff home run, and Wily Peralta won his fifth consecutive start as Milwaukee defeated Colorado.

Weeks homered on the first pitch from Christian Friedrich (0-2).

Aramis Ramirez added a two-run shot later in the inning.

Peralta (9-5) allowed three straight singles in the fourth before Ryan Wheeler hit a grand slam that gave the Rockies a 4-3 lead.

In the fifth, Weeks doubled and scored on Jonathan Lucroy's single.

A sacrifice fly by Khris Davis put the Brewers ahead 5-4. Pinch-hitter Scooter Gennett connected for a two-run homer in the eighth.

Langer takes lead at Senior Players

WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bernhard Langer overpowered Fox Chapel for the second straight day, shooting a 6-under 64 on Friday to take the lead in the Senior Players Championship. The two-time Masters champion was at 11-under 129 after 36 holes as he searches for his first victory at the Senior Players after five top-10 finishes.

Doug Garwood, tied for the first-round lead, and Bill Glasson were two strokes back. Garwood birdied two of the last three holes, and Glasson had a 64.

Joe Durant, also tied for the first-round lead, was 8 under along with Michael Allen, John Riegger and Mark McNulty. Defending champion Kenny Perry moved into contention at 7 under

with a 63, the low round of the tournament so far. After being allowed to lift, clean and place their golf balls during the opening round following several days of rain, players were forced to play it down everywhere but the 14th hole at the 6,710-yard layout. It did little to affect the deluge of low scores. Through two rounds, nobody was lower than Langer. He opened with a 65 and used a little bit of luck to jump start his round Friday. He attempted to drive the green on the uphill 295-yard par-4 seventh only to watch his ball sail into the left rough. His pitch from 25 yards bounded onto the green and rolled into the cup for an unlikely eagle. The attack kept coming. He added four more bird-



Bernhard Langer of Germany celebrates after sinking a birdie putt on the 18th hole during the second round of the Senior Players Championship golf tournament at Fox Chapel Golf Club in Pittsburgh, Friday, June 27, 2014.

Associated Press

ies — all from inside 12 feet — including a tricky left-to-right putt from 8 feet on the par-5 18th that gave Langer a two-shot cushion over Garwood. Langer's

only problem appeared to be the state of his driver. It broke after he teed off on 18. If it can't be repaired in time, he might have a new driver in his bag for the first

time in two years when he gets to the course Saturday.

Langer will need it to work if he wants to hold off a pack that includes Glasson and the rapidly rising Garwood. A journeyman who spent most of his prime selling insurance when he wasn't playing on mini-tours, Garwood is gaining confidence with each passing week on the 50-and-over circuit. He nearly won at the Principal Charity Classic in Iowa last month before falling in a playoff.

The 51-year-old Garwood joked after the first round that he wanted to lower expectations heading into the third major tournament of his Champions career, figuring if they're low enough he'll have no trouble surpassing them. Consider it done.

Review: Equalizer apps work better than Clari-Fi



This product image provided by Harman Kardon shows the HTC One M8 smartphone and AE-S Premium headphones.

Associated Press

RYAN NAKASHIMA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bring back the equalizers!

That's my conclusion after trying out Clari-Fi, a new technology from audio equipment maker Harman Kardon. Clari-Fi aims to restore some of the audio signal that is lost because of digital compression in today's download and streaming formats.

However, based on some testing, I'm not sure what exactly it does.

My best guess is that it kind of boosts the treble, those high-pitched sounds that can sound tinny if overdone.

But unlike the stereo receivers of decades past, it doesn't allow you to dial in a little at a time. There's only one choice: on or off.

Clari-Fi comes with a special Harman Kardon edition of the HTC One M8 smartphone, one that is available in the U.S. only through Sprint.

This phone also has a feature called LiveStage,

which claims to tune your listening experience to the specific Harman Kardon earphones you are wearing. Once again, your choice is limited to on or off, and you have to select which earphones you have.

My testing consisted mostly of streaming Lily Allen's "Sheezus" album and Mumford & Sons' "Babel" over Spotify on Wi-Fi using the HTC One M8, Nokia's Lumia 1520, Apple's iPhone 5 and a computer.

I found that LiveStage basically tamps down and smooths out the sound, while Clari-Fi sharpens it back up again. Slightly.

That said, I experienced way bigger differences in sound by switching earphones.

The AE-S Premium set, which comes with the HTC phone, produced the highest treble sound of the three I was using. The most neutral was a set of earphones that came, incredibly, from a BlackBerry that I no longer use. A third

set whose brand name I forget was heaviest on the bass, reminiscent of the Beats by Dre brand, which Apple is in the process of buying.

Mixing the different earphones with LiveStage and Clari-Fi on or off produced a range of results. Having Clari-Fi and LiveStage on with the AE-S produced, for me, an unacceptable amount of tinny sound. Mumford & Sons' banjo went from twangy to screechy, while Allen's voice sounded way too whisperry.

The bass-heavy earphones overpowered the impact of toggling almost completely.

With the neutral headphones, I preferred Clari-Fi and LiveStage off.

These tests made me wonder why consumers should have to subject their sound preferences to the whims of head-

phone manufacturers and technologists.

It's not economical — or a good use of time — for everyone to have to test out multiple sets of headphones with different settings. These are blunt tools to attune sound to sensitive ears.

So, I searched the Google Play app store and found just the cure: a free Android app called "Equalizer" by Smart Android Apps LLC. Using five slider controls that represent different frequencies, I could adjust the music that was streaming from Spotify just fine. I could tweak the sound for different genres, albums, songs and artists as the music was playing. Finding the right mix was far more satisfying than any result I got during the test.

A similar search on Apple's App Store produced a series of free

and paid apps. Although the free ones — like Equalizer+ and Equalizer — seem to work only with songs downloaded to the iPhone, ones costing a few dollars work with streaming services, too. The \$1.99 Denon Audio works with TuneIn, while SpotEQ, for \$2.99, works with Spotify.

SpotEQ allows me to create a kind of curvy line with seemingly infinite adjustment possibilities. My preferred equalizer shape looks like a curvy "M," which produces rich vocals and just the right amount of crispness. Not bad for not having to spend hundreds of dollars on a new phone. My advice: don't worry too much about what various equipment makers purport to do to your sound. Get a neutral set of headphones and use an equalizer app to take back control. □

Filipinos to receive disaster alerts on cellphones



In this Nov. 10, 2013 file photo, a man walks through debris of houses destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan in Tacloban city, Leyte province, central Philippines.

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The Philippines has passed a law that requires cellphone companies to send warnings to millions of people in the path of deadly typhoons, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes in an effort to reduce the high number of fatalities that occur almost every year.

The measure was in response to one of the deadliest typhoons ever to make landfall — Typhoon Haiyan, which killed over 6,300 people and displaced 4 million in the central Philippines last year.

The Free Mobile Disaster Act, which was signed last week by President

Benigno Aquino III but announced on Friday, directs cellphone operators to send out alerts about storms, tsunamis or other calamities whenever required by national disaster agencies.

Similar early warning systems are in place in a number of other countries, including Japan.

The Philippines is hit by about 20 typhoons a year in a region. It also sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where volcanic activity and earthquakes are common.

The new law says the alerts should include up-to-date information sent directly to subscribers in or near the area to be hit by a potential calamity. The messages should also include contact information for local governments and other agencies and possibly details such as evacuation or relief sites and pickup points for those fleeing their homes. □

Stocks notch gains, but still end week lower

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Summertime settled into Wall Street on Friday as major stock indexes drifted slightly higher going into the weekend. The listless day of trading left the stock market with a tiny loss for the week, its second this month.

A handful of corporate results drove trading in some big names. Warnings of weaker earnings pushed DuPont down, while stronger results pushed Nike up. But the overall market was essentially flat.

"The fact is, it's the summer, and there isn't much happening," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank in Chicago.

That could change quickly. Turmoil in the Middle East could easily rattle U.S. markets, especially if the fighting in Iraq drives oil prices too high, Ablin said. Rising tensions between Ukraine and Russia also remain a concern.

"The risk in the summer typically isn't financial, it's political," he said. "This summer it's geopolitical: Iraq and Ukraine."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index edged up 3.74 points, or 0.2 percent, to close at 1,960.96. The most widely used benchmark for stock funds lost 1.91 points for the week, a loss of 0.1

percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 5.71 points, less than 0.1 percent, to close at 16,851.84, while the Nasdaq composite

stock market. Bain Capital and the Blackstone Group, two private equity firms, bought the operator of arts and crafts stores in 2006 and returned it to investors

Nike gained 82 cents, or 1 percent, to \$77.68 after reporting earnings late Thursday that beat Wall Street's expectations. Stronger worldwide sales offset mar-



Trader Luigi Muccitelli works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Summertime settled into Wall Street on Friday as major stock indexes drifted slightly higher going into the weekend. The listless day of trading left the stock market with a tiny loss for the week, its second this month. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

rose 18.88 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,397.93.

Many investors have been waiting for the market to take a break from its long climb. The S&P 500 has gained 5.8 percent in three months and reached its latest all-time high on June 20, one week ago.

In Friday trading, Michaels Companies made a minor gain in its return to the

in a \$472 million initial public offering. Much of the money raised in the IPO will be used to pay down debt. The company's stock rose 2 cents to \$17.02, just two cents above its IPO price. DuPont dropped \$2.26, or 3 percent, to \$65.44. The company cut its profit forecast late Thursday as a result of weaker sales of corn seeds.

ketting costs for the World Cup soccer tournament. Nike provided the outfits for 10 national teams, including Team USA, for the World Cup in Brazil.

Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note held steady at 2.53 percent. The price of oil fell 10 cents to settle at \$105.74 a barrel.

□

RBS is investing \$1.7B on mobile banking growth

CHAD BRAY

© 2014 New York Times

LONDON - The Royal Bank of Scotland is making a major bet that consumers in the future will do most of their banking on mobile phones or tablets.

On Friday, RBS, based in Edinburgh, said it would spend 1 billion pounds (about \$1.7 billion) in its consumer and small business banking operations through 2017 as part of a more digital-focused strategy.

The bank said it planned to add nearly 100 automated teller machines and transform its branches from locations that are mostly focused on transactions to centers for financial advice and education. It will add 600 additional in-branch teller machines to take cash deposits and checks from consumers.

The bank said it would also upgrade its mobile platforms and roll out wireless service and other new technology, like iPads to log onto its online banking network, at 400 of its branches.

RBS said it expected about half of its customer transactions to come from its mobile applications in the next four years, up from about 40 percent in 2013. Branch transactions are expected to account for only about 5 percent of its business by 2017, compared with 13 percent last year.

"Our customers' needs are rapidly changing," said Les Matheson, the chief executive of RBS' personal and business banking operations. "We must respond to their needs and continue to improve on the service we offer both online and on mobile."

RBS has acknowledged that it will probably close some branches over time as consumer habits change but that its branch network remains an important access point for its customers - whether for transactions or financial advice.

At the company's annual meeting Wednesday. □

After ouster, American Apparel faces loan repayment

© 2014 New York Times

The pressure is mounting at American Apparel, the retailer of U.S.-made clothing that fired its founder last week.

One of the company's longtime lenders, Lion Capital, asked Thursday that a loan of about \$10 million be repaid, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The terms of the loan - which came with a 20 percent interest rate - said that if the founder, Dov Charney, ceased to be chief executive, the loan could be declared in default. Two people familiar with the

negotiations said that the loan was not yet in default and that talks were continuing.

American Apparel, which announced this week that it had hired investment bank Peter J. Solomon, has indicated that if the Lion Capital loan comes due, it will be able to pay it off.

If the Lion Capital loan is declared in default, that could trigger the default of another company loan, with Capital One Business Credit Corp.

This move by Lion came just more than a week after the American Apparel board of directors shocked

its founder by forcing him from the company's helm. The board offered him the choice to leave quietly and stay on as a consultant, or else to be fired. Charney had been a controversial chief, accused several times of sexual harassment and sued by employees who said he had created an unsafe work environment rife with innuendo and sexual misconduct. American Apparel did not tell Lion Capital that the move was coming, and the person with knowledge of the firm's deliberations said it had been difficult to get its questions answered

by the American Apparel board since Charney was pushed out.

American Apparel has struggled with high interest rates and a high debt burden, a sunken stock price, and management problems of late.

But Allan Mayer, co-chairman of the board, has said that it was Charney's conduct that led to his ouster, not the company's financial performance, which has recently improved.

Charney's lawyer, Patricia L. Glaser, has called the firing "illegal" and the claims against her client "baseless." □

Encana to sell Bighorn assets for about \$1.8B

The Associated Press

Energy producer Encana has agreed to sell its Bighorn holding in Canada for about \$1.8 billion to another Canadian company, the privately held Jupiter Resources.

Encana said Friday the sale includes about 360,000 acres of land in Canada with total net proved reserves of about 1.1 trillion

cubic feet equivalent, mostly natural gas. It also includes Encana's working interests in all pipelines, facilities and service arrangements.

"Bighorn is a high quality asset that has not been receiving significant investment in 2014," Encana CEO Doug Suttles said in a statement. "Going forward, it should serve as an excel-

lent foundational asset for Jupiter Resources."

The companies expect the Bighorn deal to close by the end of the third quarter. Encana Corp. produces natural gas, oil and natural gas liquids. The company has long struggled with low commodity prices, and it has announced job cuts and slashed its dividend since former BP executive

Doug Suttles took over as CEO last year. Suttles has said the company will focus on its five best resource areas across North America, instead of juggling 30 different areas.

In March, Encana said it reached a deal to sell Wyoming's Jonah field, one of the nation's largest natural gas fields, for \$1.8 billion to an affiliate of TPG Capital,

a global private investment firm.

In May, the company said it would spend about \$3.1 billion to buy the oil-rich Eagle Ford Shale assets in Texas.

U.S.-traded shares of Encana fell 15 cents to \$23.76 in morning trading Friday. It shares had been up 32 percent so far this year through Thursday.

Steady job growth boosts US consumer confidence

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Strong job growth lifted U.S. consumer confidence this month, as Americans looked past the economy's dismal first quarter performance. The University of Michigan said Friday that its index of consumer sentiment rose slightly to 82.5 in June from 81.9 in May. That is still below April's reading of 84.1, which had been the highest in almost a year. Confidence "has remained largely unchanged for the past six months," said Richard Curtin, an economist at the University of Michigan and director of the survey. "This was remarkable" given that the economy shrank in the first quarter.

Still, the survey was mostly conducted when the government had estimated that the economy contracted at a 1 percent annual rate in the first quarter. On Wednesday, that estimate was revised much lower, to show a contraction of 2.9 percent.

And so far, steady confidence hasn't yet translated into more spending. Consumer spending rose just 0.2 percent in May af-



A cashier hands a customer his change and receipt during a transaction at a Sears store, in Henderson, Nev. The University of Michigan issued its index of consumer sentiment for June, 2014 on Friday, June 27, 2014.

(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

ter a flat reading in April. Weaker spending suggests growth won't rebound as strongly as many economists had hoped. Some marked down their forecasts for growth in the sec-

ond quarter, to roughly 2.5 percent from 3 percent.

Still, there were other positive signs in the University of Michigan's report. Steady hiring is improving Americans' finances, the survey

found. Forty percent of respondents said their finances had improved in June, the most in seven years.

And more Americans say it is a good time to sell a home, which can help fuel

sales as most people need to sell their home before buying a new one. For the first time in eight years, half of all homeowners said sales conditions were positive.

NextEra Energy Partners surges in market debut

NEW YORK (AP) — Shares of NextEra Energy Partners LP are surging in their first day of trading as a public company.

The company priced its initial public offering of approximately 16.3 million common units at \$25 per unit, the upper end of the

projected range of \$23 to \$25 per unit.

The stock jumped \$7.36, or 29.4 percent, to \$32.36 in Friday trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Based in Juno Beach, Florida, the company raised about \$407.5 million in the offering. NextEra Energy

Partners, which owns interests in North American wind and solar projects, is a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Inc.

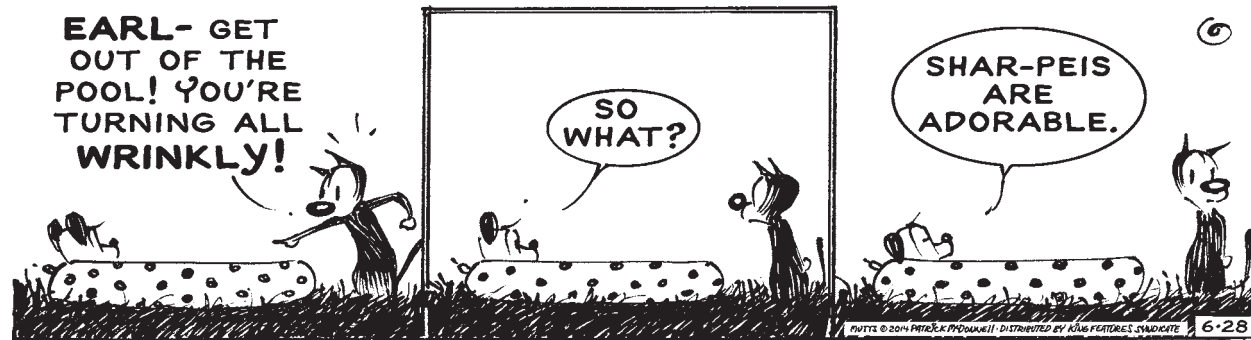
The underwriters have a 30-day option to buy up to an additional 2.4 million units at the IPO price, minus the underwriting discount.

NextEra Energy Partners said that it plans to use part of the offering's net proceeds to buy units of NextEra Energy Operating Partners LP, which holds its project assets. NextEra Energy Operating Partners plans to use the proceeds for general corporate pur-

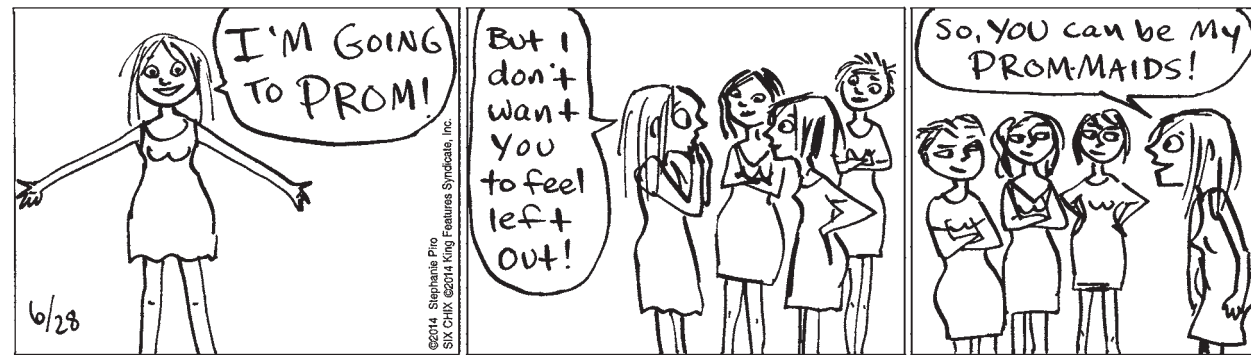
poses, such as funding future acquisitions. NextEra Energy Partners expects to use the rest of the proceeds to purchase units of NextEra Energy Operating Partners from an affiliate of NextEra Energy.

The stock is trading under the "NEP" ticker symbol.

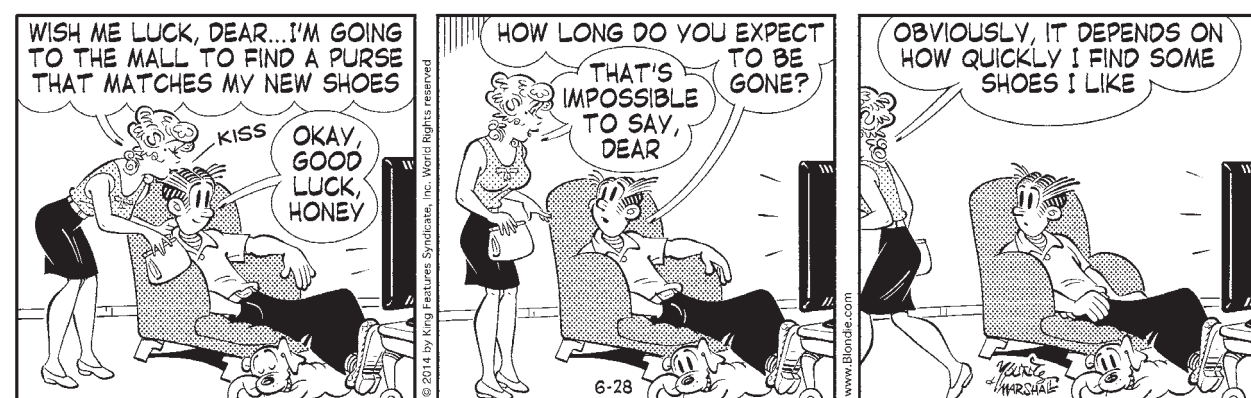
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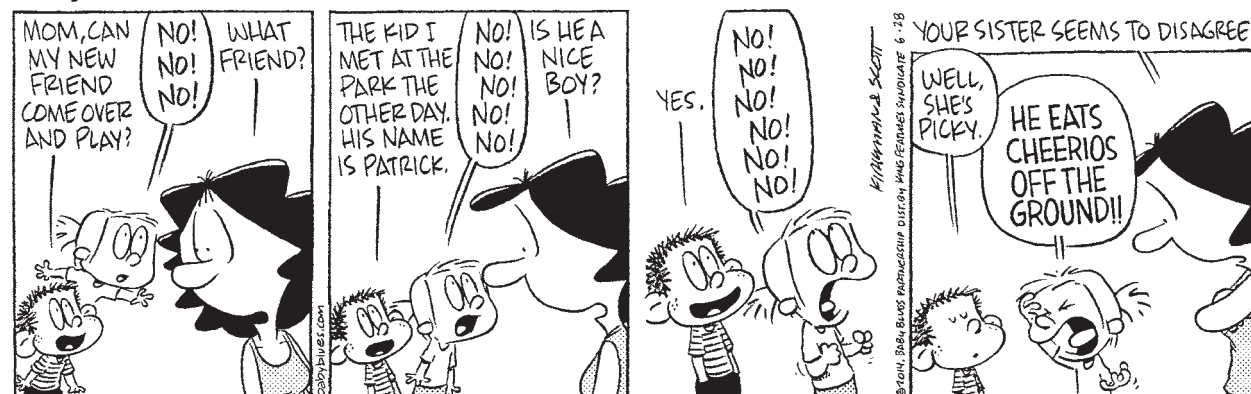
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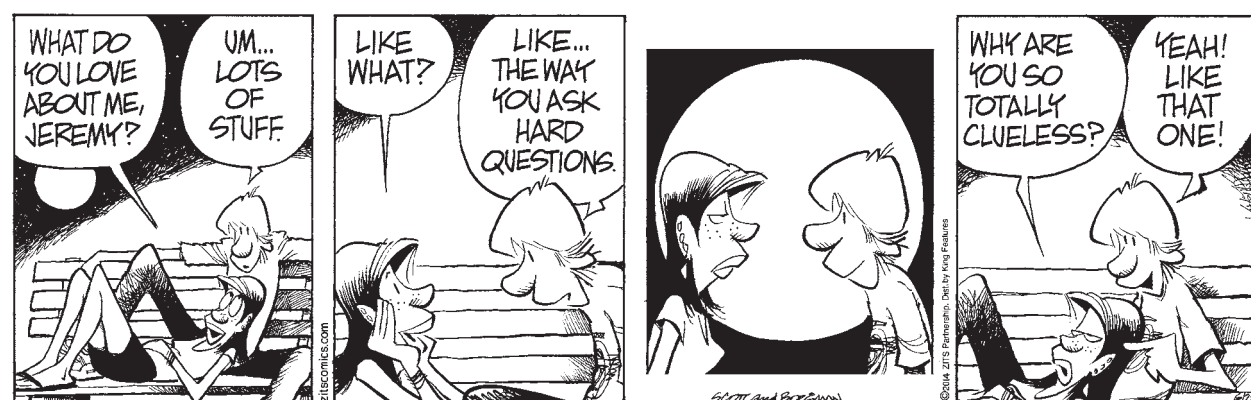
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Conceptis Sudoku

6			2					3
	7		5				8	
		9				7		
			1	7		3	9	
9	8		6	4				
		7				1		
	5				1		2	
8					3			7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	3	2	7	1	8	6	9	4
1	9	6	5	4	3	7	8	2
7	4	8	6	9	2	5	3	1
3	6	4	1	2	7	8	5	9
2	1	9	8	3	5	4	7	6
8	5	7	4	6	9	2	1	3
6	8	3	2	5	1	9	4	7
9	2	5	3	7	4	1	6	8
4	7	1	9	8	6	3	2	5

ACROSS

- 1 Oscillating blowers
- 5 Highest points
- 10 Glasgow native
- 14 Pitcher
- 15 Frog's sound
- 16 Cincinnati, ___
- 17 Casual shirts, for short
- 18 Constructing again
- 20 Didn't ___ up; made no sense
- 21 Fumbler's word
- 22 Sty cries
- 23 Memory __; senior moment
- 25 "___ can say that again!"
- 26 Votes in
- 28 Universe
- 31 Thinks deeply
- 32 Stick out
- 34 Public transport
- 36 Church service
- 37 Bulgaria's capital
- 38 Escape
- 39 Actor Brynner
- 40 "___ John B"; Beach Boys hit
- 41 Go down smoothly
- 42 Solar __; the Sun & its orbits
- 44 Puts on a play
- 45 Chop down
- 46 Steam bath
- 47 Loosen
- 50 Picnic spoiler
- 51 Defunct airline
- 54 Bum
- 57 Passes away
- 58 Unpleasantly cold and wet
- 59 Onion's cousin
- 60 Egg's center
- 61 Outlass or Alero, for short
- 62 ___ down; made quieter
- 63 Concludes

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
		23	24						25					
26	27							28			29	30		
31						32	33				34		35	
36						37					38			
39					40						41			
	42		43						44					
					45				46					
47	48	49						50				51	52	53
54					55	56					57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/28/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	O	U	R	S	L	A	M	L	A	S	T
N	U	D	G	E	C	O	C	A	I	O	W	A
U	B	O	A	T	O	P	T	S	G	R	O	W
B	A	R	N	A	C	L	E	K	E	A	T	O
D	I	E	D	G	E	R	M	A	N	Y		
P	O	L	A	N	D	F	U	D	G	E		
A	G	O	S	A	M	O	A	O	N	S	E	T
C	R	O	C	R	E	A	R	M	T	A	X	I
T	E	N	O	R	A	L	D	E	R	I	D	
					M	I	L	L	S	D	E	B
R	I	P	P	L	E	S	W	A	N	E		
A	D	O	R	E	D	D	E	L	A	W	A	R
B	I	L	E	G	O	Y	A	M	A	C	A	W
B	O	Y	S	E	W	E	R	E	R	N	I	E
I	M	P	S	R	E	D	S	S	E	E	D	S

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6/28/14

DOWN

- 1 Greek cheese
- 2 Blown away
- 3 To no purpose

- 4 Yrbk. section
- 5 Run __; find by chance
- 6 Thin pancake
- 7 Unruly crowds
- 8 __ de cologne
- 9 Zoom down snowy slopes
- 10 __ chloride; salt
- 11 Goatee's place
- 12 Pig's remark
- 13 Clothing
- 19 Too baggy
- 21 __ for; chooses
- 24 Expert combat pilots
- 25 Meditative exercise
- 26 TV show award
- 27 Island feasts
- 28 Cut coupons
- 29 Duty, legal requirement
- 30 Napped leather
- 32 Explosion
- 33 Flying saucer, for short
- 35 Observes

- 37 Murdered
- 38 Caramel-topped custard
- 40 Spirited horse
- 41 Astonish
- 43 Avoids
- 44 Took a cruise
- 46 Ointment
- 47 Take apart
- 48 Actress Patricia
- 49 Take care of
- 50 Harness strap
- 52 Melt metal pieces together
- 53 Invites
- 55 Sept.'s follower
- 56 Which person?
- 57 Coloring liquid

Ramadan poses test to Muslims at World Cup

JAMES MONTAGUE

© 2014 New York Times

RIO DE JANEIRO - Down the quiet, tree-lined Rua Gonzaga Bastos, less than half a mile from Estádio do Maracanã, the custodian of this city's only mosque was preparing for the busiest time of the year.

Mohamed Zeinhom Abdien, the custodian, was sitting at a desk opposite messy piles of boxes containing thousands of leaflets about Islam written in Portuguese, English and Arabic. The observance of Ramadan, one of Islam's five pillars, is a religious obligation in which Muslims fast and forgo any liquids from dawn until dusk over the course of a month. The month begins Saturday night, and Abdien's usually quiet mosque has been inundated with newcomers. "Normally we have 100, maybe 150 people here every Friday to pray, after the imam gives the call to prayer in Portuguese," said Abdien, an Egyptian-born tour guide who moved to Rio 21 years ago.

"But the World Cup," he said, spreading his arms at the dozens of boxes, "it means there have been many Algerian fans, TV presenters, even a few players."

This World Cup in Brazil has drawn thousands of Muslim fans - from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iran, Nigeria and beyond - and Ramadan, which is pegged to a lunar calendar and begins a bit earlier in the Gregorian calendar each year, is due to start just as the second round opens.

Ramadan involves acts of charity and increased prayer, as well as changing the body's schedule: rising early, eating and then breaking the fast, with a meal called iftar, after

the sun sets.

The month, however, should be more complicated for the dozens of Muslim players still in the tournament, including the French striker Karim Benzema and Germany's Mesut Ozil. With the humidity and high temperatures in Brazil, especially along the northern coast and in the Amazon, an inability to stay hydrated would appear to put those players, and the teams featuring several Muslims, like Algeria, at a disadvantage in the knockout stage.

Still, "we know very little," said Ron Maughan, a professor of sports nutrition at Loughborough University in England.

Maughan led a working group that examined the effects of fasting on athletes at the 2012 London Olympics, the last time Ramadan coincided with a major sporting event. He found that fasting had an effect on athletes competing in the events requiring the greatest strain, like the marathon, but that the impact was relatively small overall.

The problem lay in trying to measure the effect in a complicated, multifaceted sport like soccer.

"There are so many variables in football that it would be almost impossible to show an effect," Maughan said.

He added: "In track athletics, 0.1 percent or even 0.01 percent may make the difference between

winning and losing. In football, there are many factors affecting outcome, but games are often decided by the smallest of margins.

"It might be fair to say there is no large effect," he said, suggesting that a team would not have a significantly improved chance of beating a powerhouse like Barcelona even if all the Barcelona players were fasting.

Ahead of this World Cup, FIFA commissioned several studies into the effects of fasting.

"We made an important study with the doctor of the Algerian Football Federation, and it was very positive," said Dr. Michel D'Hooghe, the chairman of FIFA's medical committee and a member of its executive committee. "If you do it intelligently, then you can adapt perfectly. Before the sun comes up, they have enough hydration to go on through the whole day."

Islam provides some exemptions to fasting for Ramadan, for the sick and for those who are traveling, and the United Arab Emirates' soccer team was granted an exemption during the 2012 Olympics by the country's highest religious body on those grounds. Muslims are also permitted to catch up on missed fast days at a later date, although this is sometimes frowned on in the Middle East and parts of Africa. □

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Cosmic caffeine: Astronauts getting espresso maker

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — Talk about a cosmic caffeine jolt. The International Space Station is getting a real Italian espresso machine.

Astronauts of all nationalities — but especially the Italians — have long grumbled about the tepid instant coffee served in pouches and drunk with straws 260 miles (418.41 kilometers) above Earth. The pouches and straws aren't going away,

but at least the brew will pack some zero-gravity punch.

The specially-designed-for-space espresso machine is dubbed ISSpresso — ISS for International Space Station.

Its launch early next year from Wallops Island, Virginia, is timed to coincide with the six-month mission of Italy's first female astronaut, Samantha Cristoforetti. The 37-year-old fighter pilot and Italian Air Force captain will fly to the space station in November aboard a Russian capsule.

She'll be the first out-of-this-world barista.

"How cool is that?" she said in a tweet earlier this month. "I'll get to operate the first space espresso machine!"

Italy's century-old coffee maestro Lavazza teamed up with a Turin-based engineering company, Argotec, and the Italian Space Agency to improve coffee conditions aboard the orbiting outpost.

Besides espresso, ISSpresso is capable of whipping up tea and consommé.

What more could an astronaut want?



This undated product image provided by Argotec shows an ISSpresso machine.

Associated Press.

During his 5½-month stay on the space station last year, Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano repeatedly talked about missing espresso. (This is the cool-as-ice test pilot who nearly drowned during a spacewalk last July when his helmet filled with water from his suit's cooling system.)

Argotec already was working on a space espresso machine. Orbital Sciences Corp. of Virginia will make the delivery on its Cygnus cargo ship; the launch is targeted for January.

NASA's coffee-loving astronaut Donald Pettit actually offered some ideas for ISSpresso during its design phase. He's a two-time space station resident who invented and even patented a zero-gravity cup for sipping his orbital joe versus sucking it with a straw.

No question, an espresso machine will be "a welcome addition" to space station life, Pettit said Wednesday from Johnson Space Center in Houston. The pre-measured bags of freeze-dried coffee served in orbit taste good — when

you're up there on the frontier, he said. On Earth, any coffee lover would go "Yeeck."

Argotec spokesman Antonio Pilello has sampled the ISSpresso espresso and gives it a thumbs-up. The space machine is designed to operate at the same temperature and pressure as Earthly espresso makers, according to the company, to guarantee taste and flavor.

"You know, coffee is very important for Italian people. We are really hard to please about it!" Pilello wrote in an email.

Certified for safety and approved by NASA, ISSpresso initially will fly with 20 coffee capsules. Extra packets will follow for the six-member crew, if the trial run goes

well. The 44-pound machine — a compact 14 inches by 17 inches — will be housed in the U.S. laboratory, Destiny. It resembles a microwave oven, with all the action occurring inside. Engineers replaced the typical plastic tubing in an espresso machine with steel for robustness. They also used buttons and switches similar to those already on the space station, so the astronauts would be familiar with the design. Astronaut Pettit points out that the lack of gravity will prevent the bubbly foam from rising to the top. Yet even if the space espresso falls short by connoisseur standards, "it would be the best coffee that we've ever had in space." □



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A not-uncommon 'View': Hosts exiting this show

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Every day, "The View" is one big happy family. Unless it isn't. Friday's edition of the ABC chat show found its three panelists — Whoopi Goldberg, Sherri Shepherd and Jenny McCarthy — predictably chipper, loquacious and sisterly, especially when they welcomed the show's creator, Barbara Walters, for her first visit back since relinquishing her on-air role last month. But the happy mood was undercut, and even puzzling, for viewers who had learned just hours earlier that Shepherd and McCarthy are leaving the show, and not under especially happy circumstances: Shepherd is exiting after seven years since she and ABC failed to agree on a new contract, and McCarthy wasn't being asked to renew her one-year contract, according to a person familiar with the situation who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Friday's show of unity was explained by the fact that, unlike most mornings, when

"The View" airs live, this particular installment was pre-taped on Wednesday. Both Shepherd and McCarthy are expected to be on hand when the show resumes live broadcasts the week of July 7. Then they'll make their official departure when the end-of-season hiatus starts a month later.

In the meantime, a familiar guessing game — Who will fill the vacancies? — should keep fans of the show busy, with potential candidates expected to include, for the first time, men as well as women.

If the show seems in upheaval after this week's surprising announcements, it's worth recalling that behind the scenes, continuity reigns. Walters remains with the show, and her fellow executive producer, Bill Geddie, is expected to stick around, as well. They have been partners for a quarter-century, and created "The View" in 1997. Since then, "The View" has shuffled through no fewer than 10 hosts besides Walters, who was one of the original foursome along with Meredith Vieira, Debbie Matenopoulos and Star



This undated photo released by ABC shows, from left, Bill Rancic, Sherri Shepherd, Barbara Walters, Jenny McCarthy, and Whoopi Goldberg, on "The View," which airs Monday-Friday (11:00 am-12:00 pm, ET) on the ABC Television Network.

Associated Press

Jones.

Some of those panelists have left amicably and by choice, notably Vieira, who bid the show farewell in 2006 to become co-host of NBC's "Today."

Others have created a bit of a stir on the way out. For instance, Jones revealed on a June 2006 airing of "The View" that her contract wasn't being re-

newed, taking Walters by surprise with the timing of the disclosure. Jones was pulled off the air that day, which sparked a public war of words between the two women.

It remains to be seen how quietly the latest pair of "View" expatriates will go. But on Sept. 15, the 18th season of "The View" will get under way with Gold-

berg as the only carry-over panelist.

For the upcoming season, ABC is promising (with names and other details still under wraps) "an exciting new direction." Meanwhile, the unprecedented tribute to Walters on the May 15 show — a reunion of all 11 past and present co-hosts — remains just a happy memory. □

Talking to princess' sis part of Lauer's busy week

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pippa Middleton told NBC News she had no idea how big her sister Kate's 2011 marriage to Prince William would be, since she saw it as just another family wedding. "That stopped me in my tracks, that she looked at this as, 'Oh, my sister is getting married,' not that, 'Oh, I'm the maid of honor in the royal wedding,'" said NBC's Matt Lauer, who conducted the interview. The "Today" show host traveled to London this week to interview the princess' sister, her first television interview. "Today" is airing

Lauer's report in two parts Monday and Tuesday.

Lauer said Friday he had talked to Middleton's representatives about speaking to her during a just-completed charity bike ride in the United States. They said no, but that maybe she would talk later. A day after she got back, they called and told Lauer to fly to London.

Lauer said many people are interested in how Middleton seems, and what she sounds like, since they've never seen her interviewed.

"A lot of people are curious about how life has changed for her over these past two or three years,"

he said. "Yes, there were a lot of ladies here at the office that want to know what became of the dress. Does she still have it? Will she wear it again? It clearly made her famous in a lot of ways."

He said Middleton is shy, but very down-to-earth.

"I think they are going to like her very much. I think she is going to pleasantly surprise people," he said.

"Today" released a few excerpts from the interview, where Middleton talks about how her relationship with her sister has changed since the royal wedding, and her impressions of the United States.

It was a busy week for Lau-



This undated image released by NBC shows Matt Lauer, co-host of the "Today" show with Pippa Middleton in London.

Associated Press

er, who recently signed a new contract to stay at "Today," one believed to make him the highest-paid person in television news. Besides flying to London for the Middleton interview, he interviewed Amy Van Dyke,

an Olympian injured in an accident. He also had a live interview Thursday with General Motors CEO Mary Barra that attracted some criticism for a question he asked her about juggling work and parenthood. □

King writes for new season of 'Under the Dome'

BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) —

The fictional Maine town of Chester's Mill is "Under the Dome" for a second season, and author Stephen King, on whose novel the popular show is based, has written the first episode for this summer's run.

The CBS miniseries that led the ratings much of last summer returns for another 13 episodes beginning Monday (10 p.m. EDT), with King telling viewers that no one in Chester's Mill is assured of making it through the season alive.

"It's an interesting challenge" picking up a plot after other writers have taken it in new directions, King said during a March interview on the set.

"I went back and looked at the last episode twice and I looked at the last scene about 15 times," he said. "Here is where Joe and the other teenagers are

outside the church. Here is Barbie on the scaffold with Big Jim and Junior. What is going to happen to these people?"

Working with other writers is different from writing a book that you do yourself, King said. "It's a really collaborative effort and you have to be willing to give up some of your ideas for the other ideas and try to get something everyone is happy with."

In "Under the Dome," a dome suddenly encapsulates a small Maine town, cutting off its residents — and in the show's opening, cutting a cow in half — from the rest of the country, leaving them to their own resources to survive.

King has touched on the theme of isolation in the past, from early novels such as "The Shining" to his 1999 TV miniseries, "Storm of the Century."

"People underestimate the power of nature and

overestimate the organization and infrastructure of the world," he said. "Those things fascinate me. We live in a fragile society and the infrastructure that holds a lot of it up is very fragile." He mentioned the ice and snowstorm that paralyzed Atlanta last January, trapping motorists in their cars, some for hours, as thousands of vehicles clogged the highways. Some people abandoned their vehicles and sought refuge in private homes, fire stations, shelters and supermarkets.

"That is an under-the-dome situation, and you are thrown on your own resources and may have to be 18 or 19 hours inside the cab of a semi-truck," King said. "I like to see how people react when they are put into a situation — not necessarily a survival situation — but where you don't have the resources of the government and the outside world."



In this photo released by CBS, author and executive producer, Stephen King, poses standing with studio lights for the TV series, "Under the Dome," filmed on location in Wilmington, N.C.

Associated Press

King sees the mystery as part of the attraction of "Under the Dome."

Who lowered the dome? Aliens? Or was it some type of government experiment that went awry?

And there's the isolation from the rest of the world.

"I think people like to watch something like 'Under the Dome' and imagine how they would react," King said. □

Shia LaBeouf arrested for disrupting Broadway show

RACHELLE BLIDNER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) —

Shia LaBeouf was released from police custody Friday after he was escorted from a Broadway theater for yelling obscenities and continued to act irrationally while being arrested, authorities said.

After his court appearance, the actor, wearing a ripped blue T-shirt, skinny jeans and boots, walked several blocks to The London NYC Hotel on West 54th Street. He declined to comment.

The 28-year-old, who starred in the first three "Transformers" movies, was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, criminal trespass and harassment Thursday night at the Broadway show "Cabaret."

The inside of the Broadway theater, which used to be a notorious, disco in the 1970s, has been reworked to look like a decadent Berlin cabaret from



Actor Shia LaBeouf walks through the media after leaving Midtown Community Court following his arrest the previous day for yelling obscenities at the Broadway show "Cabaret," Friday, June 27, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

the 1930s. LaBeouf was in the audience and had paid for his ticket himself. During the show, he was seen offering a strawberry to a woman and lighting a cigarette.

According to police, security guards asked LaBeouf to leave the Studio 54 theater at about 8:45 p.m., but he refused, used obscene language and physically interfered with employees. Police said he made ag-

gressive statements and threats to security guards and police officers.

He was acting irrationally, continued to make aggressive statements and used foul language after he was removed from the theater and throughout the arrest process, police said. Officers said he appeared intoxicated or under the influence of some kind of drug.

A spokesman for "Caba-

ret" says LaBeouf was "disruptive during Act 1" and was escorted out of the theater at intermission.

LaBeouf, who was represented by a Legal Aid attorney Friday, was due back in court July 24.

On Friday, as the pack of reporters trailed him to the hotel, a reporter fell out of her shoe. LaBeouf stopped to help her get back into it.

LaBeouf's other films include "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," "Disturbia" and "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps."

Last year, LaBeouf pulled out of what would have been his Broadway debut in "Orphans," a play starring Alec Baldwin. LaBeouf left the production over what was described as "creative differences" and was replaced by Ben Foster. In February, the actor participated in a performance-art event at a Los Angeles art gallery wearing a bag over

his head with the words "I AM NOT FAMOUS ANYMORE" scrawled in black ink across it.

The stunt came days after he posed on the red carpet at the Berlin Film Festival in the same getup. At the same festival, he walked out of a news conference after answering a reporter's question by saying: "When the seagulls follow the trawler, it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea. Thank you very much." The line was borrowed from a French soccer player who baffled reporters with it in the mid-1990s.

Last year, LaBeouf came under fire for borrowing the storyline and dialogue for his short film "Howard Cantour.com," which closely resembled the 2007 graphic novel "The Death-Ray" by Daniel Clowes. LaBeouf apologized on Twitter in a series of posts that were directly lifted from other famous mea culpas. □

Obama's Weakness, or Ours?



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
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The odds are that you think President Barack Obama's foreign policy is a failure. That's the scathing consensus forming, with just 36 percent of Americans approving of Obama's foreign policy in a New York Times/CBS News poll released this week. Foreign policy used to be a source of strength for the president, and now it's dragging him down - and probably other Democrats with him.

Mitch McConnell, the Senate minority leader, warns that Obama "has weakened the national security posture of the United States." Trent Franks, a Republican member of the House from Arizona, cites foreign policy to suggest that Obama is "the most inept president we have ever had." Obama is no messiah, but this emerging narrative about a failed foreign policy is absurdly harsh. Look at three issues where Republicans have been unfairly jabbing him with pitchforks:

- Trading five Taliban prisoners for Bowe Bergdahl was unpopular with the public, and the Obama administration may have made the trade in the incorrect belief that Bergdahl was near death. Then again, here's a U.S. soldier who spent five years in Taliban custody, some of that reportedly in a cage after trying to escape. If we make heroic efforts to bring back American corpses, how can we begrudge efforts to bring back a soldier who is still alive?

Sure, there are risks. But the five Taliban prisoners have probably aged out of field combat, and, if they return to Afghanistan after their year in Qatar, they would likely have trouble finding U.S. targets because, by then, the United States will no longer be engaged in combat. More broadly, there's nothing wrong with negotiating with the Taliban. The blunt truth is that the only way to end the fighting in Afghanistan is a negotiated peace deal involving the Taliban, and maybe this deal can be a step along that journey.

- Russian aggression in Ukraine was infuriating, but it's petty Washington politics to see it as emanating from Obama weakness. After all, President George W. Bush was the most

trigger-happy of recent presidents, and he couldn't prevent Russia from invading Georgia in 2008 and helping carve off two breakaway republics.

Obama diplomacy appears to have worked better than military force would have. Contrary to early expectations, Russia did not seize southeastern Ukraine along with Crimea, and President Vladimir Putin of Russia this week called on Parliament to rescind permission to invade Ukraine. Be wary, but let's hope the Bear is backing down.

- The debacle in Iraq is a political and humanitarian catastrophe, but it's a little rich for neocons to blame Obama after they created the mess in the first place. Obama was unengaged on Iraq and Syria, but it's not clear that even if he had been engaged the outcome would have been different.

Suppose Obama had kept 10,000 troops in Iraq as his critics wish. Some would have been killed; others injured. We would have spent another \$50 billion or so in the Iraqi sands (that's more than 25 times what Obama requested to start universal prekindergarten, but Congress balks at the expense). And Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki might have felt even less need to keep Sunni tribes on his side. Would all this really have been the best use of U.S. lives and treasure?

Yes, Obama has made his share of mistakes, especially in Syria, where he doesn't seem to have much of a policy at all. Partly balancing that, he helped to defuse the Syrian chemical weapons threat.

Look, the world is a minefield. President Bill Clinton was very successful internationally, yet he bungled an inherited operation in Somalia, delayed too long on Bosnia, missed the Rwanda genocide and muffed the beginning of the Asian financial crisis - and all that happened during a particularly skillful administration. As for former Vice President Dick Cheney complaining about Obama's foreign policy, that's a bit like the old definition of chutzpah: killing your parents and then pleading for mercy because you're an orphan. In the Bush/Cheney years, we lost thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives, we became mired in Afghanistan, Iran vastly expanded the number of centrifuges in its nuclear program, and North Korea expanded its arsenal of nuclear weapons. And much of the world came to despise us.

Blowing things up is often satisfying, and Obama's penchant for muddling along instead, with restraint, is hurting him politically. But that's our weakness more than his. Obama's foreign policy is far more deft - and less dangerous - than the public thinks, and he doesn't deserve the harsh assessments. If there's one thing we should have learned in the Bush/Cheney years, it's that swagger and invasion are overrated as foreign policy instruments. □



Mississippi Goes for the Money



GAIL COLLINS
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Mississippi has sent us a message. I believe it boils down to: We Want Our Stuff.

Big election night! As you no doubt have heard, Sen. Thad Cochran, a Republican who specializes in sending billions of dollars in federal pork back into his state, defeated a Tea Party challenger who ran against government spending.

It wasn't easy. Cochran's fierce and energetic opponent, Chris McDaniell, forced him into a primary runoff. To survive, Cochran turned to Democrats, who took advantage of Mississippi's open primary laws and tossed Thad a vote. Or at least turned out to give McDaniell a kick in the shin. "We are not prone to surrender, we Mississippians," McDaniell declaimed once the results were announced. "A strong and sturdy people we are. A brave people we are!" He appeared to either be planning to demand an investigation or try out for a role in the next Hobbit sequel.

"Those guys are not good losers," mused Curtis Wilkie, a journalism professor at the University of Mississippi.

The runoff was kind of fascinating. Cochran, who is something less than a fireball orator, rambled on at one event about his childhood visits to a farm and doing "all kinds of indecent things with animals." One of

the many, many political action committees involved in the campaign put that in a McDaniell ad, along with a rant about Obamacare and a demand that voters "tell Thad Cochran you're no farm animal."

Meanwhile, McDaniell got support on the stump from former "The Dating Game" host Chuck Woolery and the parents from the reality show "19 Kids and Counting." I am not sure how all these thoughts merge together, but as you can see, it was way more interesting than your average Senate primary.

These days, when a Republican politician gets into primary trouble, his first move is usually to leap farther right, assuring voters that he is capable of being even angrier and crazier than his opponent. That's what gives the Tea Party its power. To use a zombie metaphor - and who among us does not love a zombie metaphor? - the Tea Party (Dead But Undead) wins not by killing its opponents but by turning them into drooling, staggering replicas of itself.

Cochran is plenty conservative on most issues, except the one the Tea Party cares most about. He's a true believer in the power of the federal government to use tax dollars to improve the lives of its citizens. He spreads a wide net, from cotton subsidies to food stamps to military contracts to special education in public schools.

Instead of racing to the right, Cochran ran on his talents as a collector of federal money. When Mississippians turned on their TVs, there was former Sen. Trent Lott, warning voters that without Cochran, Mississippi might lose the Stennis Space Center. Or football hero Brett Favre, reminding people that Cochran got them a ton of help for rebuilding after Katrina. Or an announcer thanking Thad for "our aerospace industry, shipbuilding, military bases, research and development, agricultural breakthroughs."

Nobody came straight out and said: "Look, Mississippi gets

three bucks back from the federal government for every dollar we send in. Don't kill the golden goose." But the message was pretty clear, and in some ways a little revolutionary. Like voters in many poor, conservative states, Mississippians have spent decades happily deluding themselves that they're victims of Washington rather than its top beneficiaries. You could argue that Thad Cochran staged an intervention for his state's residents, in which he pierced, at least temporarily, their veil of denial. McDaniell played right into the old fantasy world, assuring voters that they could eliminate federal spending on education, which amounts to a quarter of Mississippi's public school budget, without suffering any financial damage. He seemed shocked when it didn't work. In his refuse-to-concede speech, he denounced Cochran for "once again, reaching across the aisle" a practice he seems to find as offensive as federal aid to education.

McDaniell blamed his defeat on "liberal Democrats." Actually, most of Cochran's support came from Republicans, but because he won by less than 7,000 votes, you could definitely argue that Democratic Mississippians - most of whom are black - were the ones who saved his bacon.

"First time in my life I ever voted in a Republican primary," said Wilkie, 73.

Cochran will almost certainly be re-elected in November. When he gets back to Washington he'll be 77, starting a new six-year term. With nothing to lose and scores to settle. Really, he could do anything. March in a gay pride parade. Announce that an angel had appeared to him in a dream and told him that God wants us to increase the gas tax to combat global warming.

Or at least maybe someday, if the president needs a vote, Cochran will remember who gave him a hand, and return the favor. □

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